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MONTANA

Statewide Outdoor Recreation Plan

Vol. 2

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State Fish and Game Commission

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VOLUME II

Part 1

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Part 2

THE TWELVE PLANNING REGIONS

Introduction 81

(Each Planning Region Begins Again with Page Number 1)

Each Planning Region Follows the Format Below:

Summary of Major Recreation Problems

Geographic, Population and Historic Characteristics

Characteristics of Recreation Use

Inventory of Public Agency Recreation Facilities

(The Inventory of Private Enterprise Facilities to be Completed by June 30, 1974)

Narrative: Major Recreation Resources of the Region

This section describes the more significant natural environment areas, forests, rivers, streams, in terms of their broad recreational potential. A more detailed inventory of these resources will be part of the continuing planning process.

STATEWIDE SUMMARY

Types of Recreation Areas Ranked in Order of Preference by Montana Residents

Montanans generally prefer to recreate at natural undeveloped environment areas such as in undeveloped national forest regions, backcountry areas and any public land areas where there are a minimum of recreation facilities or no facilities at all, but where recreation opportunities are abundant.

The second most preferred type of area is the general outdoor recreation area such as state parks and recreation areas, forest sites and other public and private land campgrounds and recreation areas. Emphasis is on the recreation opportunities available in a more concentrated, developed, designated area.

Outstanding natural areas such as those of Glacier National Park, Yellowstone National Park or Lewis and Clark Caverns are the third most preferred recreation areas by residents. These areas are characterized by an abundance of opportunity, both at developed and undeveloped portions of a unique type of resource.

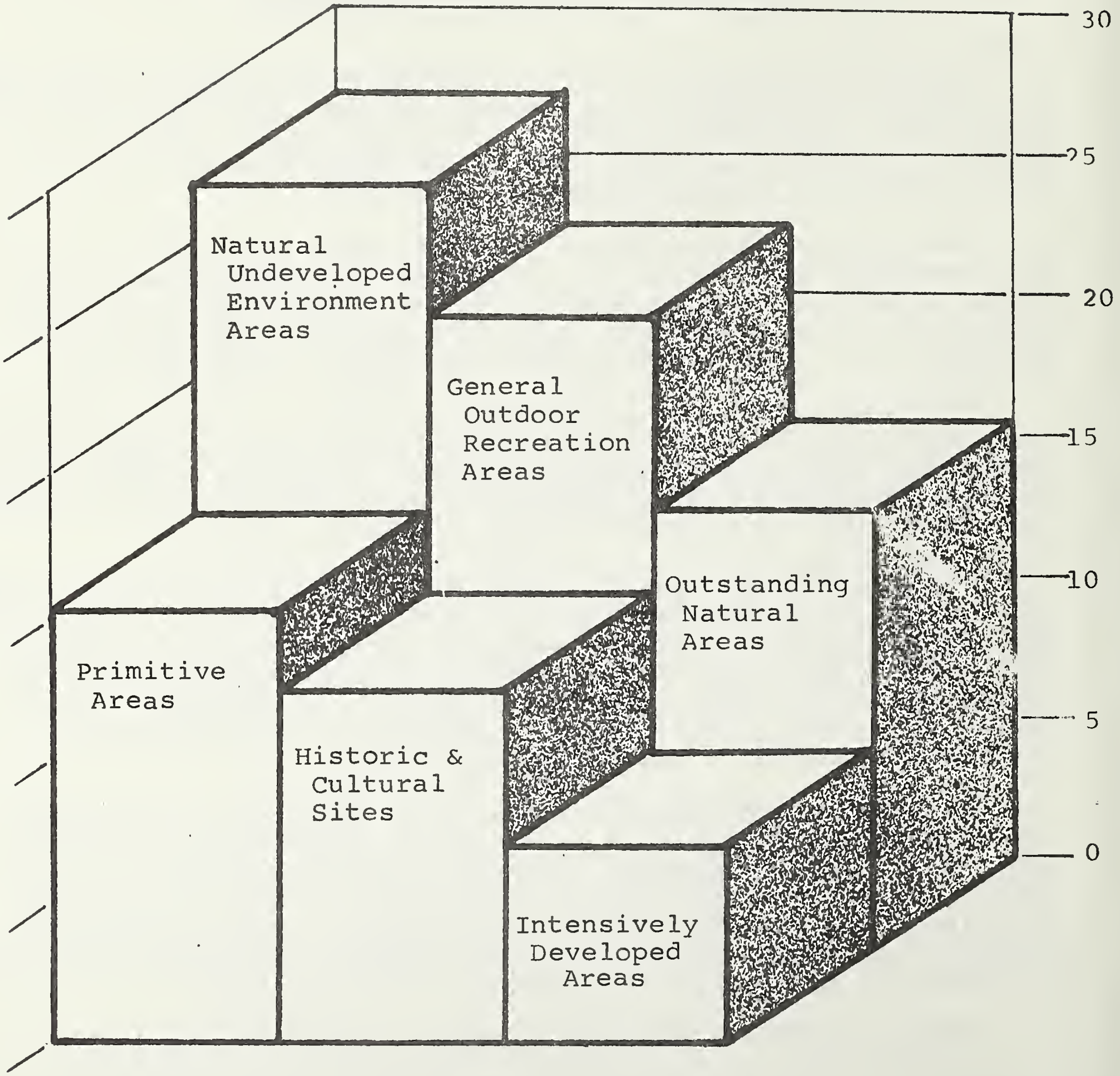
Primitive areas such as the Mission Mountains Primitive Area, the Spanish Peaks Primitive Area, or the Bob Marshall Wilderness are the fourth most preferred outdoor recreation type of area. This type of area has no developed facilities or man-made intrusions, including roads, within its specific boundaries. These areas, as a group, rate nearly as popular as the outstanding natural areas such as Glacier National Park.

Historic and cultural sites such as Bannack State Monument, Custer National Battlefield or the Clark Mansion in Butte are rated fifth most preferred. Intensively developed areas such as those with a high concentration of activity, both in developed facilities and numbers of people served; i.e., many local and urban parks, tennis courts and golf courses, are rated sixth most preferred as to type of area desired for recreation.

Source: 1971-72 Statewide Survey of Montana Residents.

STATEWIDE

Preferences for Selected Types of Recreation Areas by Montana Residents Yearly Totals



Numbers indicate a weighted percent based on the number of responses to first, second, and third preferences.

STATEWIDE SUMMARY

Relative Popularity of Outdoor Recreation Activities for Montana Residents on a Year-Around Basis

The Montana resident indicates that driving for pleasure is the most popular outdoor activity, accounting for a statewide average of 18.4% of all time spent engaged in outdoor recreation pursuits. Driving for pleasure reaches peaks in the late winter - early spring and late autumn periods decreasing in participation in the summer months.

Walking for pleasure is the second most popular activity in Montana accounting for 11.3% of all participation in recreation activities. It has a pattern of participation similar to driving for pleasure. As other activities are engaged in more frequently in the summer, walking (and driving) for pleasure account for a relatively smaller portion of time spent recreating. Sightseeing, third most popular activity in Montana, accounts for 9.3% of all recreation time, and has a similar participation pattern to walking and driving for pleasure, but not with as an extreme a range from high to low points.

Fishing is by far Montana's most popular water-oriented activity and the state's fourth most popular activity over all, accounting for 7.4% of all recreation time. It gains its greatest participation in the warm summer months, but not by much over the balance of the year. Motor boating is the second most popular water-oriented activity but accounts for only 2.8% of all recreation time in the state making it thirteenth statewide in popularity. Motor boating, swimming (2.6%); river floating and water skiing (accounting for less than one percent each) all are most popular in the summer.

Backcountry touring, generally with a 4-wheel drive vehicle, is fifth most popular statewide accounting for 5.7% of all recreation time. It reaches a peak in the autumn and undoubtedly is related to hunting.

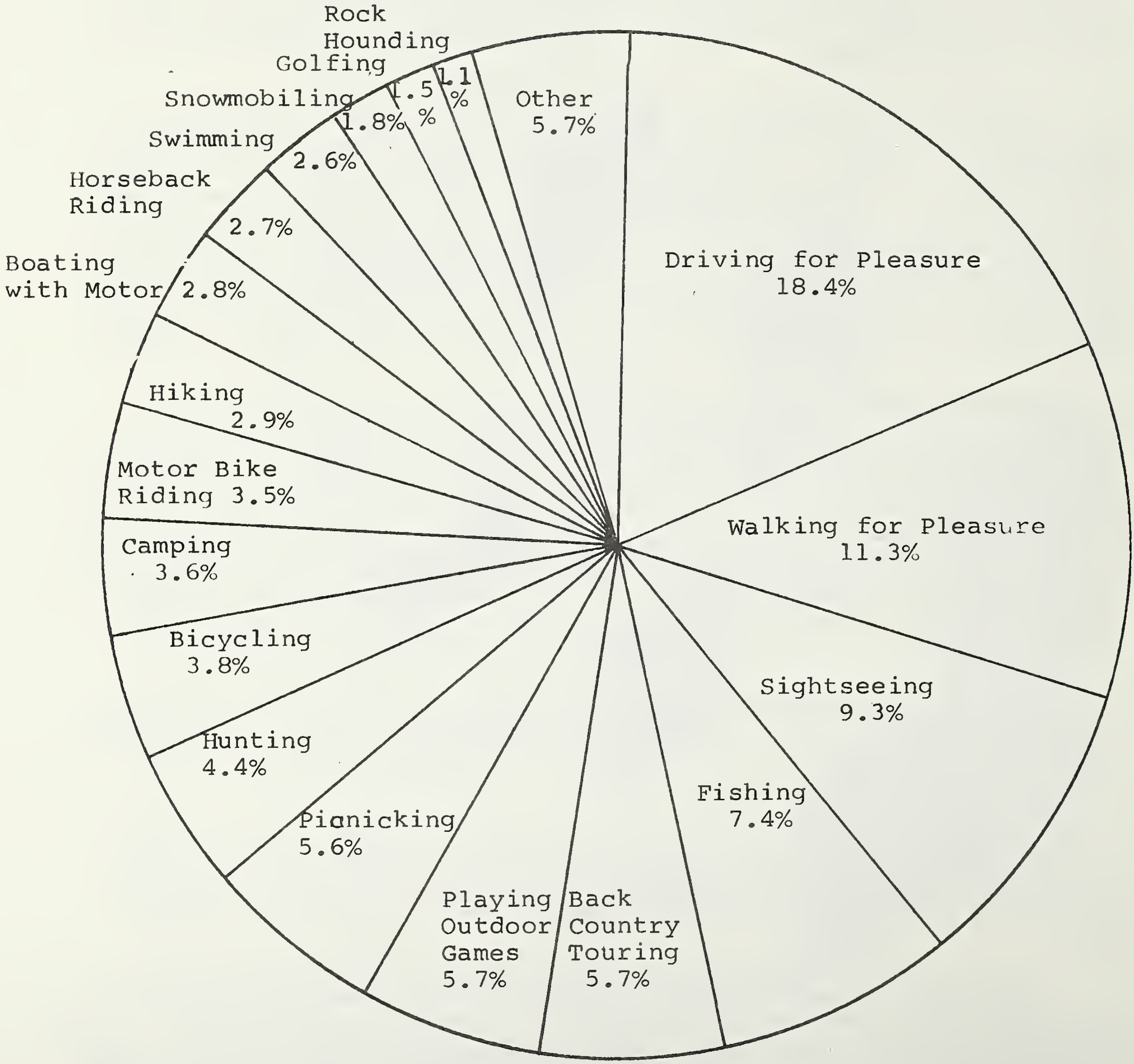
The above five activities account for slightly more than half, 52.1%, of all time spent engaged in various outdoor recreation activities in Montana. An automobile or related vehicle is used in three of the activities and accounts for three-fifths of the 52%.

Picnicking ranks seventh in Montana and accounts for 5.6% of all recreation time spent by residents; hunting ranks eighth (4.4%); bicycling ranks ninth (3.8%); and camping ranks tenth (3.6%). Other activities follow in the following order and account for the percentage of time shown; motorbike riding (3.5%); hiking (2.9%); motor boating (2.8%); horseback riding (2.7%); swimming (2.6%); snowmobiling (1.8%); golfing (1.5%); rock hounding (1.1%); all other surveyed activities accounted for less than one percent each. Snowmobiling is the most popular winter activity followed by snow skiing, sledding, and ice skating.

Source: 1971-72 Survey of Montana Residents.

STATEWIDE

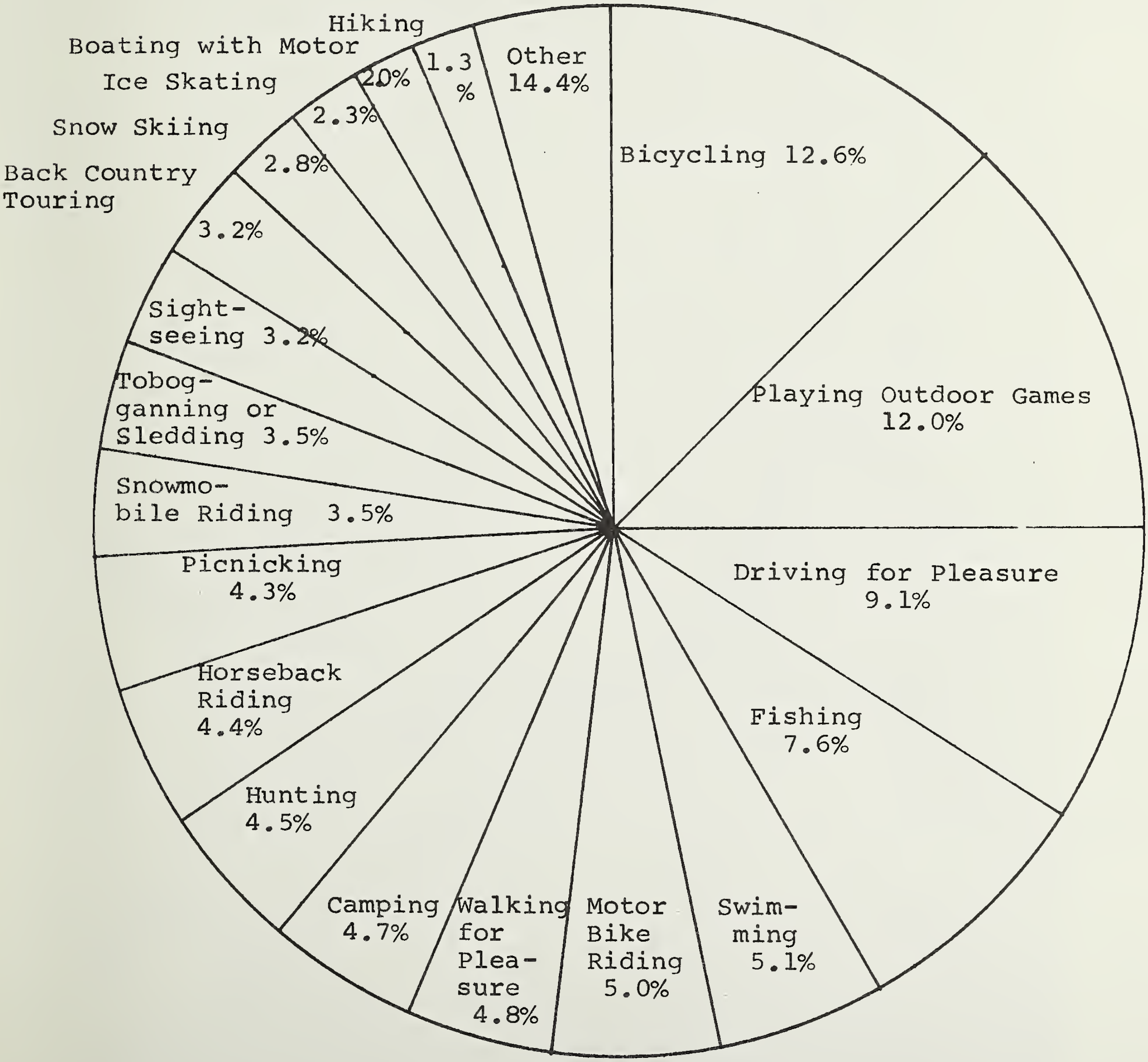
Frequency of Participation in Selected Outdoor Recreation Activities by Montana Residents - Yearly Average



The above percentages represent an activity's portion of all recreation time.

STATEWIDE

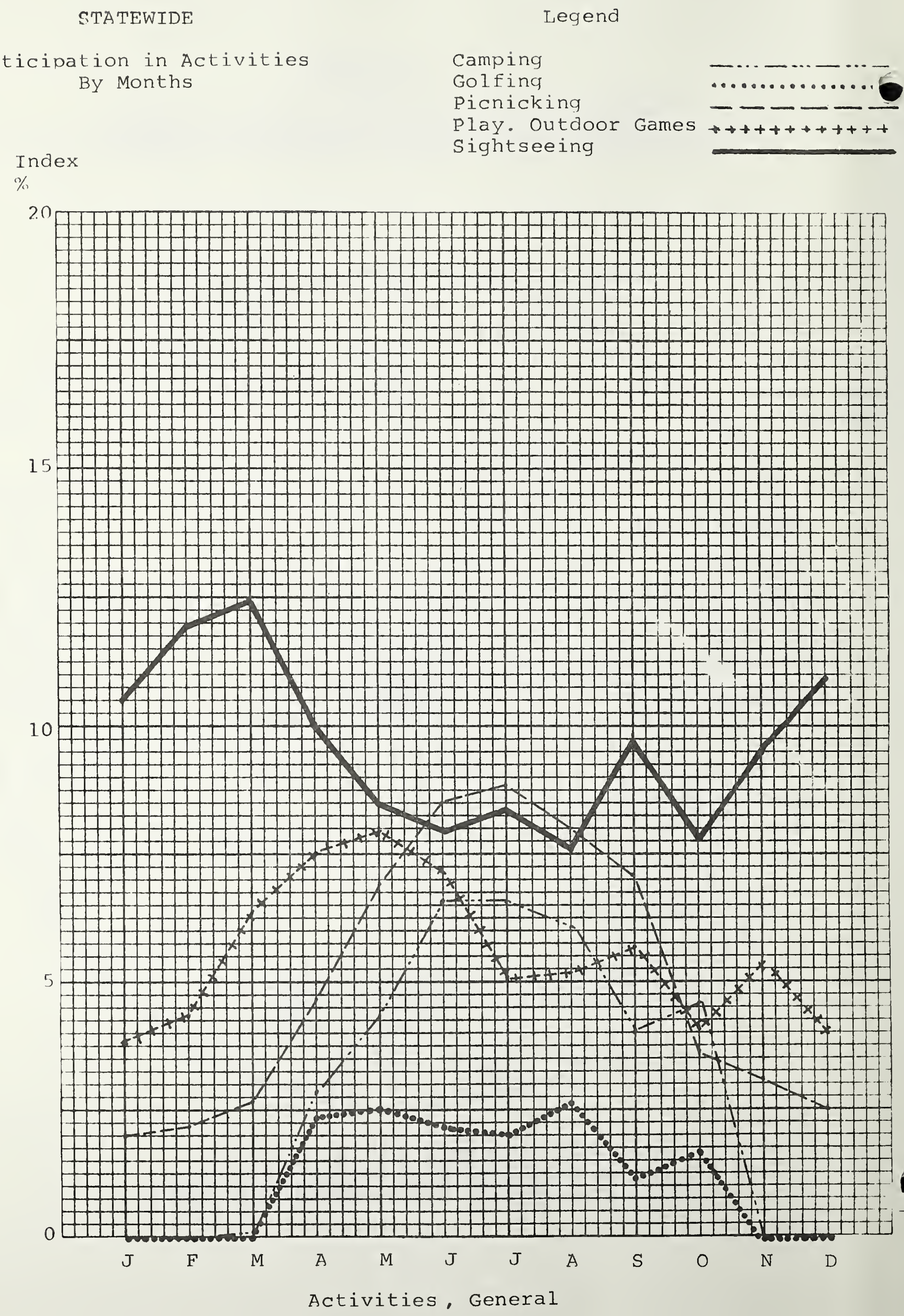
Frequency of Participation in Selected Outdoor Recreation Activities by Montana Children - Yearly Average



The above percentages represent an activity's portion of all recreation time.

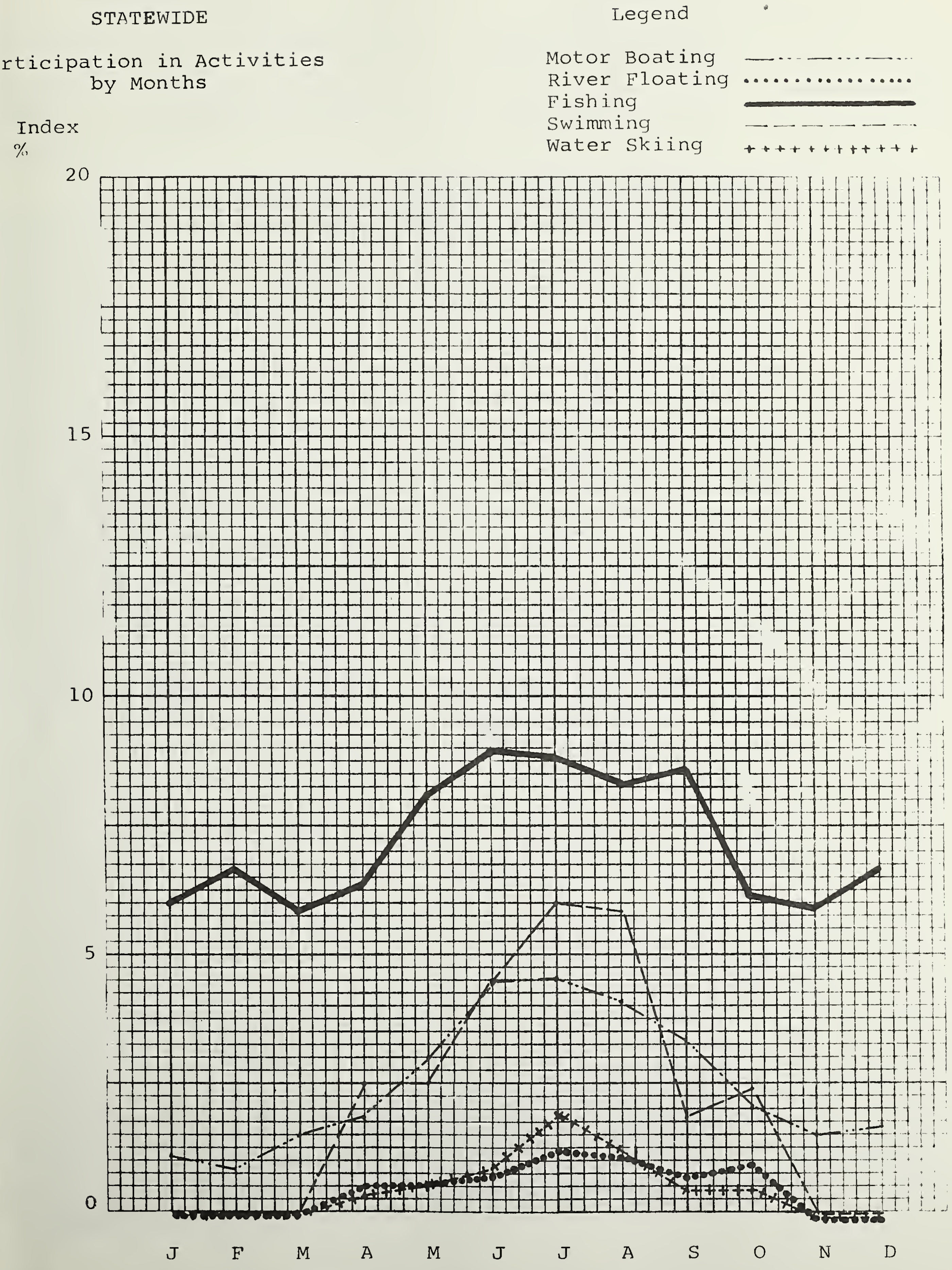
STATEWIDE

Participation in Activities
By Months



STATEWIDE

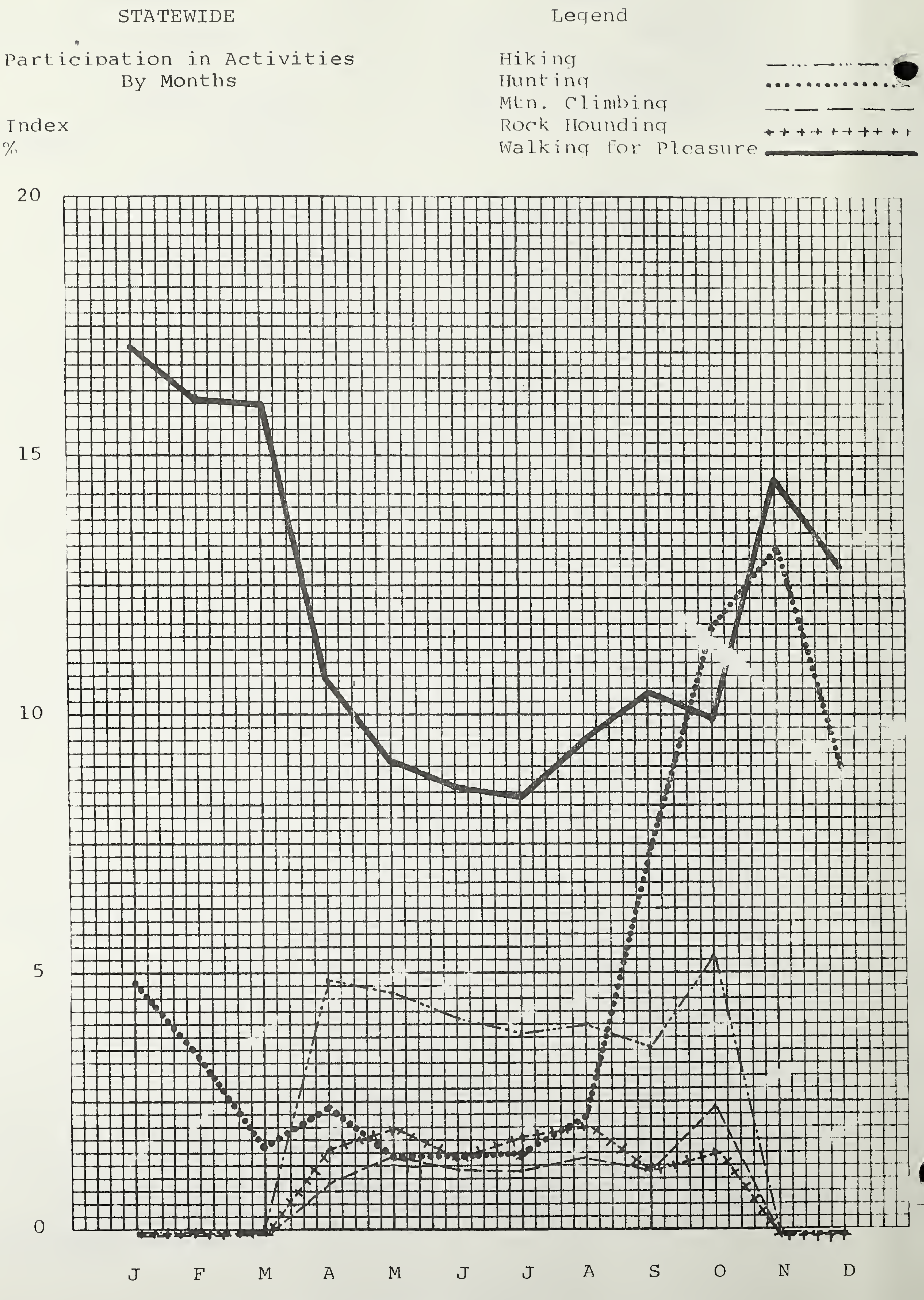
Participation in Activities by Months



Water Oriented Activities

STATEWIDE

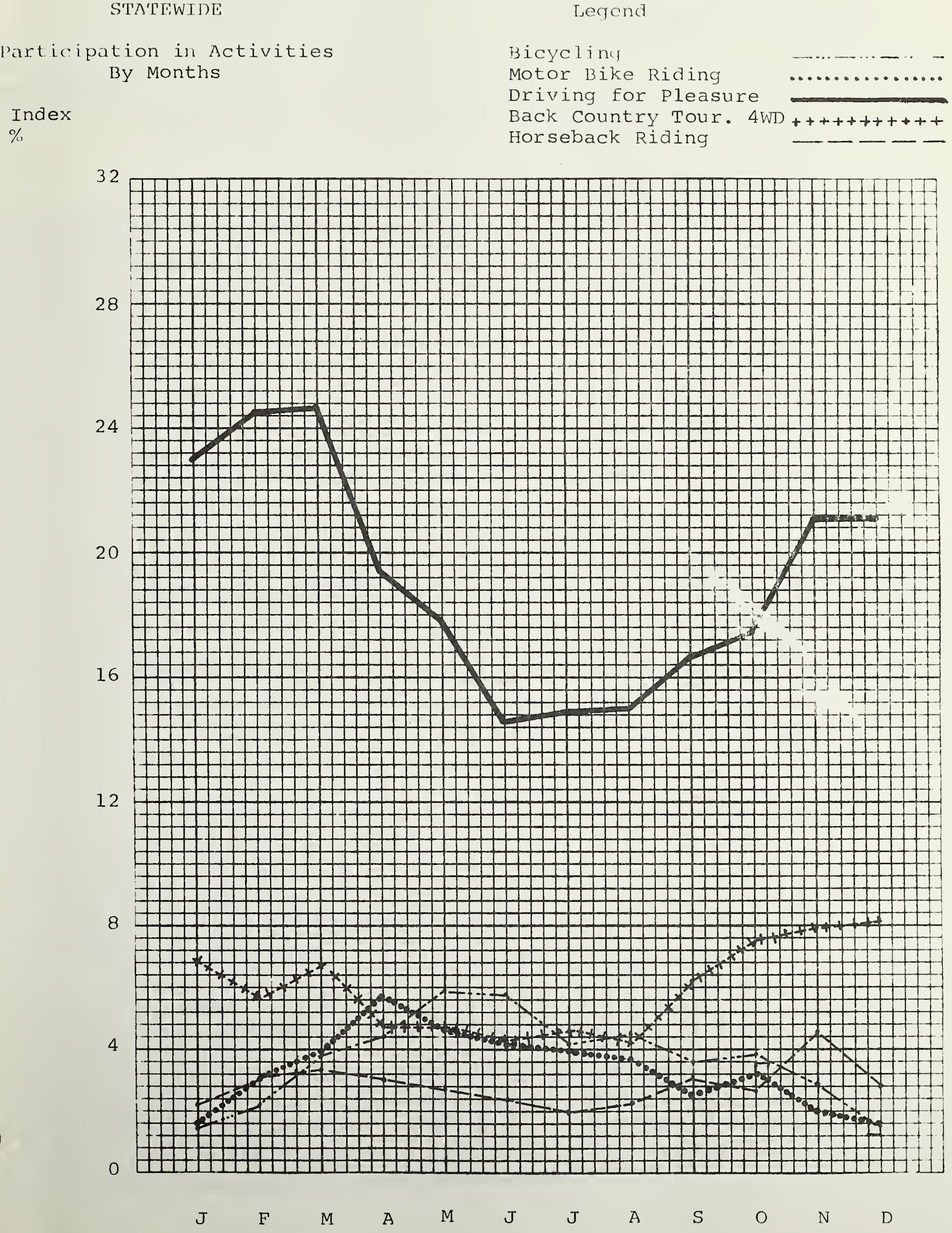
Participation in Activities By Months



Traveling Activities with/without Vehicle

STATEWIDE

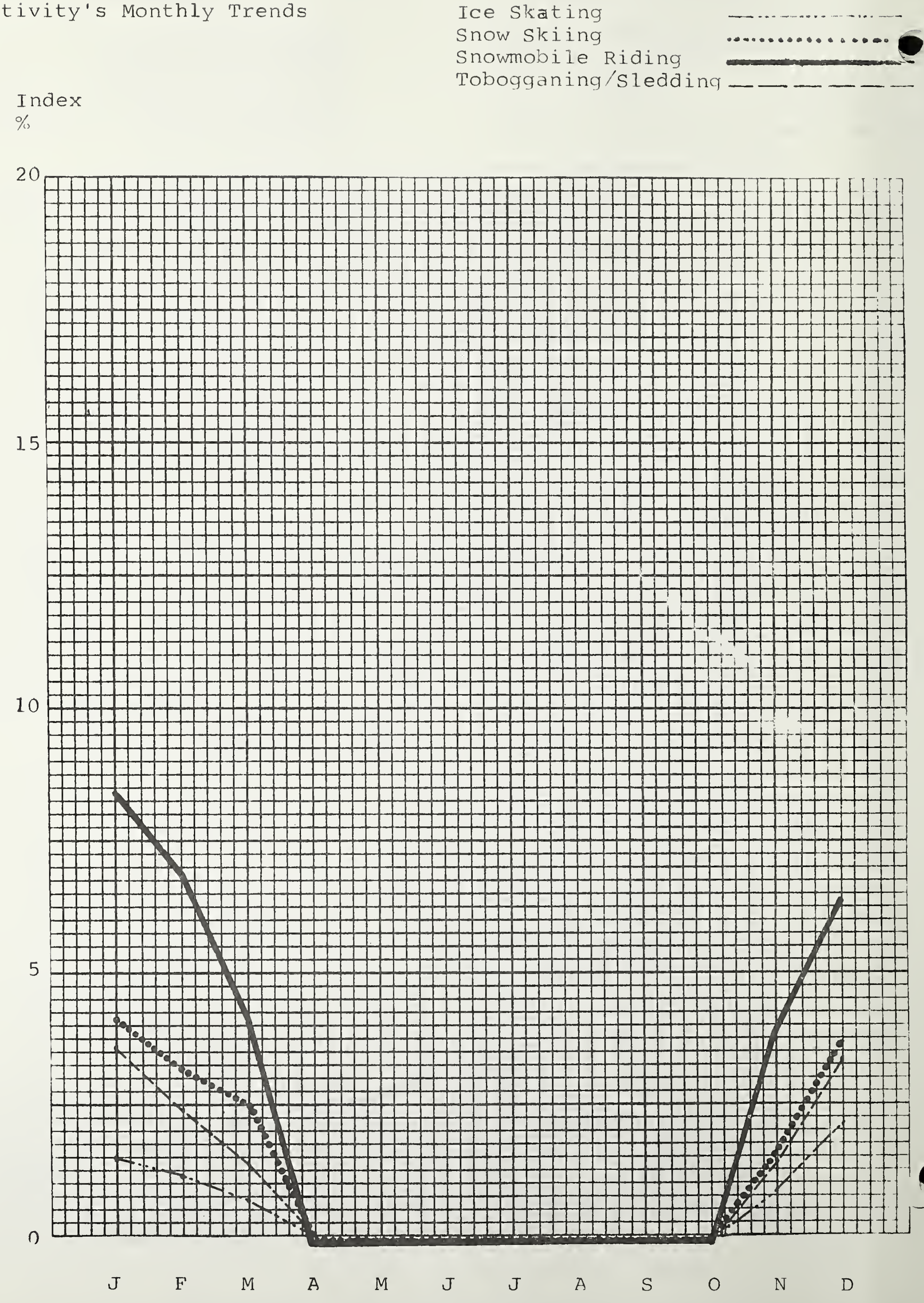
Participation in Activities
By Months



Traveling Activities - Vehicle Needed

STATEWIDE

Activity's Monthly Trends



Winter Activities

STATEWIDE SUMMARY

Some General Characteristics of Recreation Use and Viewpoints of the Park User

Use of recreation facilities in Montana is predominately by residents. Resident use accounts for 60%; 40% for nonresident use. Only in Regions 5 (Great Falls) and 10 (Kalispell) does nonresident use exceed resident use; this pattern is probably due to the presence of Glacier National Park and Flathead Lake in these regions. The most prevalent party size encountered during the survey on a statewide basis was that of two persons (25.8%); the next most frequently encountered was a party of four persons (19.5%).

On a statewide basis, more lengthy visits at Montana recreation areas predominate; 27.4% of all recreationists using public recreation areas and campgrounds remain from three to six nights. Nearly one-fifth remain two nights; and 18.8% of all those surveyed are day use visitors.

Travel trailers are used most often 35.2% for sleeping accommodations; campers are used by 24.0% of those surveyed; and 16.1% are tent campers.

The importance of recreating at an area where specific activities could be engaged in is brought out as 51.7% of all recreationists surveyed indicated they choose an area because they are able to participate in a desired activity. Natural beauty is given as the second most frequent reason, 44.8%, for choosing an area. Many recreationists, 23.8%, choose an area because it is near home; and 20.7% choose an area because it is convenient to the highway.

On a statewide basis, most facilities encountered at public recreation areas are rated as excellent or good. The only item to receive an average rating is the provision of firewood. Approximately one-third of those surveyed indicate a need for additional recreation activities or facilities at public recreation areas. Most environmental factors at public recreation areas are rated good to excellent. The natural beauty of the area and its convenient access are both rated as excellent.

The outdoor recreation activity (at given recreation areas) which statewide accounts for more of the recreationists time than any other is resting and relaxing. This passive activity accounts for 14.7% of all recreation time spent at public areas. Camping is second and accounts for 13.6% of all recreation time. Fishing accounts for 11.0%; walking for pleasure 8.4%; and picnicking 6.8% of all recreation time spent at public recreation areas.

Source: 1971-72 Survey of Visitors at 250 Park and Recreation Areas.

STATEWIDE SUMMARY

Some Comparisons of Time Devoted to Outdoor Recreation Versus Other Leisure Time Pursuits

Throughout the state, residents engage in indoor-spectator activities to a greater degree than any other leisure time pursuits. These activities include watching TV, listening to the radio, tapes, or records, reading, attending concerts, plays or movies. They are engaged in most frequently in the winter and spring, and decline in popularity during the rest of the year. In no month do they exceed all other leisure time activities in popularity.

The second most popular leisure time activity group engaged in by Montana residents, and that which this plan is most concerned with, is outdoor recreation. This group of activities exceeds all others in popularity in June, July, August, and September and concurrently reaches a peak in the summer months.

Home-related activities such as gardening, yard work, home improvement, shopwork, sewing and making things are the third most frequent activity group engaged in by Montana residents. These activities generally are most popular in the spring and summer when they exceed other activities, except outdoor recreation. Only in May do home-related activities exceed all others.

Social activities including club or fraternal meetings, church, and entertaining friends are fourth most popular with Montana residents. Their popularity is relatively consistent throughout the year. They exceed all other activities in popularity only in October.

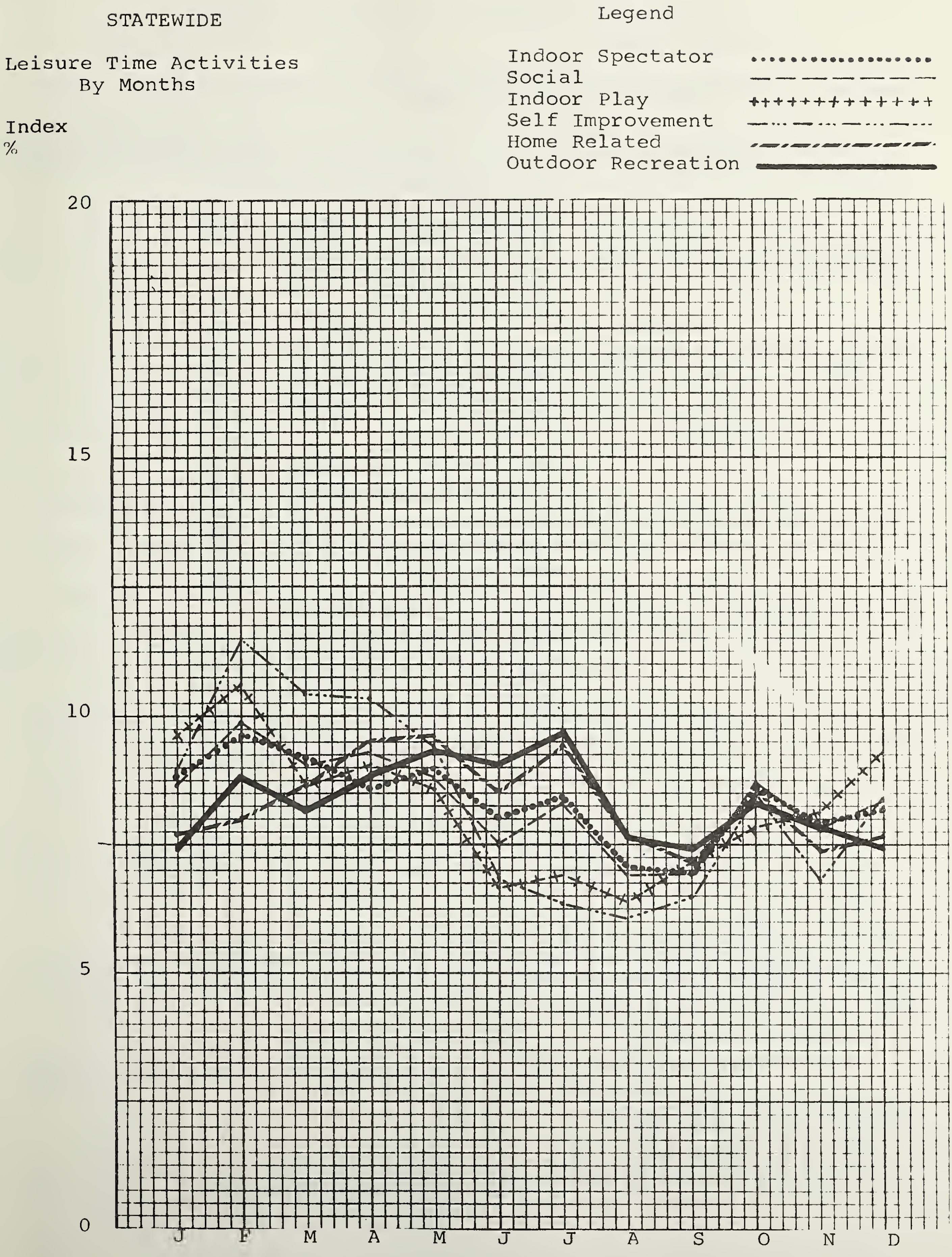
Indoor play activities which include active participation in cards, bowling, square dancing, basketball, handball, volleyball, pool swimming and others are the fifth most frequent activity group engaged in by Montana residents. These activities exceed all others in popularity in November, December, and January and concurrently reach their high point during these months.

Least frequently engaged in are the self-improvement activities such as participation in schooling, health and fitness programs. Although exceeding all other activities and reaching their peak in February, March and April, they decline drastically for the balance of the year.

Source: 1971-72 Survey of Montana Residents.

STATEWIDE

Leisure Time Activities
By Months



STATEWIDE SUMMARY

Reasons for Selecting Recreation Areas

1. Near home
2. Convenient to highway
3. Natural beauty
4. Recommended
5. Near desired activity
6. Other reasons

Kalispell Region..........	near desired activity	57%
	natural beauty	43%
	convenient to highway	24%
Missoula Region...........	near desired activity	53%
	natural beauty	43%
	convenient to highway	23%
Dillon, Butte, Drummond... Regions	near desired activity	58%
	natural beauty	43%
	convenient to highway	21%
Great Falls Region........	natural beauty	69%
	near desired activity	37%
	convenient to highway	15%
Helena Region.............	near desired activity	66%
	natural beauty	26%
	near highway	15%
Billings Region...........	only one where natural beauty was first	57%
	near activity close second	47%
	close to highway	23%
Miles City................	near home was first	64%
All other regions.........	near activity decidedly first	
	close to highway	15 to 20%, low as 4%

Length of Stay

Kalispell, Missoula, Butte, Great Falls, Helena, Bozeman, all these regions indicated that most of the visitors stayed between 2 to 7 days, indicating that the visitor has a rather firm desire to stay there once he arrives.

In the Butte region, more than 25% of the people stayed a week or more.

Length of stay by agency

At fish and game areas	30% stay one day or less
	18% are overnighters
	20% stay more than two days
	14% stay more than a week

Source: 1971-72 Survey of 250 Recreation Areas

COMBINED SUMMARY OF USE CHARACTERISTICS

Statewide Averages

Source: 1971-72 Survey of 250 Recreation Areas

27.4% of recreationists stayed from 3 to 6 nights; 19.7% stayed 2 nights; 18.8% were day use visitors; 18.5% stayed overnight; 15.5% stayed 7 nights or more.

35.2% of recreationists used travel trailers for sleeping accommodations; 24.0% used campers; 18.1% used no sleeping accommodations; 16.1% used tents; 5.0% used other sleeping accommodations; 1.7% slept out-of-doors.

51.7% of recreationists chose a recreation site because it was near a desired activity; 44.8% chose a site because of its natural beauty; 24.3% chose a site for various other reasons; 23.8% chose a site because it was near home; 20.7% chose a site because it was convenient to the highway; 18.7% chose a site because it was recommended by friends or relatives.

Facilities that were rated:
   Excellent: picnic tables, garbage facilities, parking areas, camp sites.
   Good: fireplaces, toilets, boat ramps, swimming beaches, drinking water.
   Average: firewood provision, other various facilities.

32.2% of recreationists indicated a need for additional recreation activities or facilities.

Environmental factors rated:
   Excellent: natural beauty of area, convenient access.
   Good: sufficient privacy, sufficient space, level of maintenance, convenient facilities.
   Poor: other various factors.

Of the total amount of outdoor recreation activity taking place at, or from, recreation sites, resting and relaxing accounts for 14.7%; camping 13.6%; fishing 11.0%; walking for pleasure 8.4%; picnicking 6.8%; sightseeing 6.8%; hiking 6.3%; driving for pleasure 6.0%.

Of the total amount of outdoor recreation activity preferred at recreation sites, fishing accounts for 21.0%; resting and relaxing 16.1%; camping 15.4%; swimming 6.5%; hiking 6.3%; sightseeing 5.4%; motor boating 5.2%.

The most prevalent party sizes at recreation sites were: 2 persons, 25.8%; 4 persons, 19.5%; 5 persons, 12.0%; 3 persons, 10.0%; 6 persons, 9.1%.

60.1% of recreationists were residents; 39.9% came from out of state.

85.8% of recreationists indicated a specific geographic area in Montana which they enjoyed visiting most or which they would like to visit; 14.2% gave no response.

88.4% of recreationists indicated a specific opinion of outdoor recreation in Montana; 11.6% gave no response.

Recreation Use Characteristics
Statewide

Leisure Time Activities		Leisure Time Activities Peak Month	
Indoor Spectator	22.7%	Indoor Spectator	February
Outdoor Recreation	21.2%	Outdoor Recreation	July
Home-Related	19.9%	Home-Related	May
Social	17.3%	Social	February
Indoor Play	13.2%	Indoor Play	February
Self-Improvement	5.8%	Self-Improvement	February

Each Activities Portion of All Outdoor Recreation	
Driving for Pleasure	18%
Walking for Pleasure	11%
Sightseeing	9%
Fishing	7%
Backcountry Touring	6%
Playing Outdoor Games	6%
Picnicking	6%
Hunting	4%
Bicycling	4%
Camping	4%

Preferences for Types of Outdoor Activities	
Driving for Pleasure	#1
Walking for Pleasure	#2
Sightseeing	#3
Fishing	#4
Picnicking	#5

Type of Area Preferred	
Natural Undeveloped Environment Areas	28%
General Outdoor Recreation Areas	23%
Outstanding Natural Areas	16%
Primitive Areas	15%
Historic and Cultural Areas	12%
Intensively Developed Areas	6%

Childrens Participation in Activities	
Bicycling	13%
Playing Outdoor Games	12%
Driving for Pleasure	9%
Fishing	8%
Swimming	5%

Source: 1971-72 Survey of Montana Residents (7000 returns)

CHARACTERISTICS OF RESPONDENTS

A summary of data from the 1971 Resident Survey. All data are of a statewide average. Figures do not always equal 100% because of non-respondents to certain questions.

Respondents Characteristics

Marital Status and Sex	
Married	74.6%
Single	24.8%
Male	55.4%
Female	44.0%

Age Groups	
Under 15	0.3%
15-24	17.1%
25-34	18.7%
35-44	18.1%
45-64	36.4%
over 65	9.1%

Household Status	
Head of Household	53.7%
Spouse	32.8%
Son or daughter	10.0%
Other	3.0%

Size of Household	
1 person	9.5%
2 persons	28.8%
3 persons	18.9%
4 persons	18.4%
5 persons	12.3%
6 or more	11.2%

Employment Status	
Employed	67.6%
Not employed	30.9%

Length of Vacation	
no vacation	12.6%
6 days or less	4.3%
1 week	12.9%
2 weeks	27.6%
3 weeks	17.2%
4 weeks or more	22.2%

Season of Vacation	
No vacation	12.1%
Spring	6.5%
Summer	51.0%
Fall	19.8%
Winter	7.4%

RECREATION PROBLEMS AND OPINIONS

On the 1971 Montana Resident Survey questionnaire, there were five open-ended questions which gave significant and interesting information about recreation not derived elsewhere.

The following section reveals what the Montana resident thinks of outdoor recreation in the state; what he feels is needed; what recreation opportunities he feels are needed for his children; what he thinks should be done for the handicapped; and where he prefers to recreate, geographically, in the state.

Approximately 2,000 questionnaires were randomly edited for open-end responses - a total of 30% of all returned questionnaires.

RECREATION PROBLEMS AND OPINIONS

As Stated By Montana Residents

A total of 6,785 questionnaires were returned on the Resident Survey. Some 6,409 questionnaires were edited. The balance of about 350 were returned by the post office for various reasons. Approximately half of the questionnaires for the months of February, March, April, May, June, July and August were tabulated for open-end questions, for a total of 2,000 questionnaires. Thus, 29.5% of all questionnaires edited were tabulated for open-end questions.

Question 16

If there were any outdoor recreation activities your children would have enjoyed but were not available where you live, please write the names of these activities.

Total comments on all recreation questions were 6,409.

Number of comments on Question 16 were 86.

1.3% of all tabulated comments went to Question 16.

Question 16 received a very small percentage of responses compared to most of the other questions. Comments were spread over the various activities desired for children, the major one being requests for swimming facilities; this received 26.7% of all requests for Question 16. The requests were spread over a wide number of cities and towns, neither receiving a high percentile. Fishing was another desired activity, receiving 13.9% of the requests for Question 16. Noticeable trends for fishing facilities were in eastern Montana, Wolf Point receiving the highest number of comments. Requests for boating received 9.2% of the comments for Question 16. Boating requests were also centered in eastern Montana. There was no particularly high number of comments in any specific town or city. A request for park and playground equipment received 6.8% of all comments on Question 16; these requests were mainly from small towns.

Some of the minor requests ranged from various types of recreational facilities for outdoor sports such as: baseball fields, golf courses, tennis courts, archery ranges, skating rinks, and bicycle trails. Other activities more closely attuned to the environment such as hunting, water skiing, horseback riding, snow skiing, mountain climbing, camping and sightseeing were also included.

Question 18

If you are interested in outdoor recreation, what geographic areas would you like to visit?

Total comments on all questions were 6,409.

Number of comments on Question 18 were 2,805.

43.7% of all tabulated comments went to Question 18

Question 18 received the highest percent of comments compared to the other questions. The preferences indicated were broken up into categories of various types of geographic locations, parks, state monuments, national forests, lakes and reservoirs, rivers and streams, mountain and wilderness areas.

1. Parks, State Monuments, and National Forests

    a. Glacier National Park

    Glacier National Park received 11.3% of all the preferences in Question 18.

    Glacier attracted the great majority from the larger cities: Great Falls, Missoula, Billings, Helena, Kalispell and Butte, respectively. However, there were many smaller towns preferring Glacier National Park and when combined, they accounted for more than half of the total responses to Glacier. There is a statewide move to Glacier National Park, with no particular area prevailing.

    b. Yellowstone National Park

    Yellowstone National Park received 5.2% of all the preferences in Question 18.

    Yellowstone, like Glacier National Park, attracted a majority from the larger cities: Billings, Missoula, Great Falls, Helena and Anaconda respectively. Again the smaller towns, when combined, account for half of the total responses for Yellowstone National Park. There seems to be a general move to Yellowstone from all over the state, small towns and large cities, with no particular area prevailing.

Other less popular areas receiving preferences were areas of national forest such as the Lewis and Clark National Forest, Gallatin National Forest, Lolo National Forest, Custer National

Forest, Deer Lodge National Forest, etc. State monuments and parks also receiving preferences were: Lewis and Clark Caverns, Clyde Park, Makoshika Park, Chief Joseph Battleground, Big Hole Battleground, and Madison Buffalo Jump. These minor areas generally attracted people near their immediate vicinity, with a few exceptions. For example, Deer Lodge National Forest attracted people from Deer Lodge, Butte and Anaconda; Makoshika State Park attracted people from the eastern portion of the state, Billings, Glendive, Scobey and Wibaux.

2. Lakes and Reservoirs

a. Flathead Lake

Flathead Lake received 15.8% of all the preferences in Question 18.

Flathead Lake received most of its preferences from larger cities, Billings, Great Falls, Missoula, Kalispell, Helena and Butte respectively. Of all the people who preferred lakes, 81.3% preferred Flathead Lake.

b. Fort Peck Reservoir

Fort Peck Reservoir received 1.9% of all the preferences in Question 18.

Fort Peck Reservoir received the majority of its visitors from small towns in the eastern part of the state. There were very few visitors from the western end of the state.

c. Seeley Lake

Seeley Lake received 1.5% of all the preferences in Question 18.

The majority of the visitors to Seeley Lake area were from Great Falls and Missoula; there were also visitors from other towns throughout the state.

d. Georgetown Lake

Georgetown Lake received 1.4% of all the preferences to Question 18.

Visitors to Georgetown Lake were mostly from Butte and Anaconda respectively, with a few visiting from Missoula. A small percentage came from small towns in the surrounding area.

e. Canyon Ferry Reservoir

Canyon Ferry received 1.2% of all the preferences to Question 18.

Recreationists from Helena, Great Falls and Billings made up a clear majority of visitors to Canyon Ferry. Again, many different smaller towns made up the rest of the visitors.

f. Bighorn Canyon N.R.A. - Yellowtail Reservoir

Yellowtail Reservoir received 1.1% of the preferences to Question 18.

Billings' visitors made up 50% of all those visiting Yellowtail Reservoir. Small easterly towns made up the rest of the recreationists to the area.

There were many smaller lakes and reservoirs also receiving preferences to Question 18. Whitefish Lake, Como Lake, Holland Lake, Lake Mary Ronan and many others scattered throughout the state also received preferences. Such reservoirs as Hebgen, Hauser, Holter and Clark Canyon also received preferences. These smaller water bodies usually received their visitors from towns in their immediate vicinity. However, there were occasional visitors from distant locations.

3. Rivers and Streams

a. Yellowstone River

The Yellowstone River received 2.2% of all preferences to Question 18.

Those visiting the Yellowstone River were from the eastern portion of the state. Those visiting the upper Yellowstone were from more westerly towns such as Butte, Missoula, Bozeman, Billings and Great Falls. The lower Yellowstone received its visitors from towns such as Billings, Miles City, Glendive and Glasgow.

b. Madison River

The Madison River also received 2.2% of the preferences to Question 18.

Madison River recreationists came mainly from Billings, Butte, Bozeman and Great Falls respectively. Small towns in the vicinity of the river were also represented.

c. Big Hole River

The Big Hole River received 1.8% of the preferences to Question 18.

Preferences for the Big Hole River were from Butte, Anaconda, Helena and Missoula. Other smaller towns were represented, however, all clearly from the western end of the state.

d. Missouri River

The Missouri River received 1.5% of the preferences to Question 18.

Preferences for the Missouri River were mostly from Great Falls, Lewistown and Helena. Many small towns also showed preferences along the course of the river.

e. Gallatin River

The Gallatin River received 1.4% of the preferences to Question 18.

Bozeman and Billings, respectively, preferred the Gallatin River more than any other towns put together; the other towns were mainly from the southern portion of the state.

Other rivers that received preferences were the Stillwater, the Smith, the Jefferson, the Bitterroot and the Blackfoot. The majority of the recreationists who preferred these rivers came from larger towns near the specific river. Rock Creek also received a high number of preferences, mostly from Missoula, Butte and Anaconda.

4. Mountain and Wilderness Areas

a. Beartooth Mountains

The Beartooth Mountains received 2.8% of all the preferences to Question 18.

Billings recreationists preferred the Beartooth Mountains more than any other towns or cities combined. Other towns preferring the area were Great Falls, Bozeman, Helena, Glendive, Missoula and Lewistown.

b. Bob Marshall Wilderness

The Bob Marshall Wilderness also received 2.8% of the responses to Question 18.

Preferences for the wilderness came mainly from Great Falls, Missoula and Helena. Again, towns throughout the state were represented.

Other mountain ranges and wilderness areas preferred were the Mission Mountains, represented mostly by Missoula; Little Belt Mountains, preferred mainly by Billings and Great Falls; Bitterroot Mountains by Missoula; and Crazy Mountains preferred by Billings recreationists.

Question 19

What improvements in the environment and facilities would you like made in your city and town parks?

Total comments on all questions were 6,409.

Number of comments on Question 19 were 1,251.

19.5% of all tabulated comments went to Question 19.

Improvements Requested

1. "More and improved city parks."

   Received 10% of the requests for Question 19.

   Those requesting more and improved parks were mostly from large towns such as Butte, Missoula, Billings, Helena and Great Falls, respectively. Smaller towns, such as Glendive, Hamilton, Redlodge and Kalispell, generally asked for improvements to the parks. The larger towns generally asked for more parks.

2. "New swimming pool or more swimming pools."

   Received 8.2% of the requests in Question 19.

   Billings, Bozeman, Missoula and Great Falls requested new swimming pools. Respectively, the smaller towns requested a swimming pool if they didn't have one; this was 2.8% of those who made requests in Question 19.

3. "Would like park kept in better condition."

   Received 6.5% of the requests for Question 19.

   With the exception of Butte, Anaconda, Missoula and Great Falls, all the requests came from small towns located throughout the state.

4. "Would like park kept in better condition, cleaner."

   Better maintenance received 6.5% of the requests in Question 19.

   Butte, Missoula, Great Falls, Anaconda and Billings made up half of the requests for better park maintenance. The other requests were made up entirely of small towns with no more than two requests per town.

5. "Want more and improved picnic facilities such as tables, benches and fireplaces."

   Accounted for 6.3% of the requests for Question 19.

   Great Falls, Butte and Billings led the way in requests for picnic facilities. There were very few larger cities making these requests; however, there were many small towns making up more than 50% of the number of requests.

6. "More trees and other scenery improvements."

   Received 5.1% of requests for Question 19.

   Billings, Great Falls, Butte and Havre were the forerunners in the requests for more trees and other scenery. Other requests were generally from towns in the northern and eastern areas where a minimum of natural scenery exists: Plentywood, Shelby, Glendive and Circle.

7. "More facilities in general for youth."

   Received 4.8% of requests for Question 19.

   Billings, Great Falls, Missoula, Havre and Helena contributed about 50% of these requests. There was generally balanced representation throughout the state.

Other requests made for city parks were generally those asking for specific recreational facilities. These included such facilities as tennis courts, baseball and softball fields, volleyball courts, roller skating and ice skating rinks, and horseshoe pits. These requests came from either the large cities (due to overcrowding), or small towns (lack of such facilities).

There were also requests for improvements in park maintenance such as: cleaner toilet facilities, more frequent garbage pickup, better lighting, more supervision to control vandalism, better regulation of park rules, and more facilities for camp trailers. These requests were made from a wide variety of locations throughout the state.

Question 21

If there are any members of your household, including yourself, who have special outdoor recreational needs because of disabilities or handicaps, would you please write in the space below what these needs are.

Total comments on all recreation questions were 6,409.

Number of comments on Question 21 were 45.

0.7% of all comments went to Question 21.

There are two specific trends which became apparent in looking at special needs required for the disabled and handicapped. The first was a need for activities which require little walking or strenuous exercise. Such needs mentioned here were: fishing sites where little climbing is necessary, areas in back country that could be made accessible to disabled, and some transportation for city parks.

The second trend was toward activities of interest to the elderly. Some of the needs mentioned were: visitor centers, exhibits at historic sites, fishing privileges for the elderly (free licenses or token fees), more facilities in general at city parks for the elderly, more rest stops, and walking trails or paths.

Other requests for needs mentioned were: supervision to help retarded children in parks, facilities built for crippled children, and level parking spots for campers and trailers for easy accessibility.

Question 22

What is your opinion of outdoor recreation in Montana? Please tell us what you consider being done well, or badly, and what improvements you believe are needed.

Total number of comments on all questions was 6,409.

The number of opinions in Question 22 are 2,255.

35.1% of the total number of comments on all questions went to Question 22.

Question 22 received the second largest number of comments compared to the other questions. These comments were separated into categories of: a general category which collected those comments not aimed at a particular area of recreation; comments directed at recreation sites and maintenance; hunting and fishing; water sports; winter sports; and wilderness and primitive areas.

General Outdoor Recreation

1. 8.2% of those who responded to Question 22 said that Montana recreation areas were great.

2. 5.3% of the persons offering opinions to Question 22 showed that they want more and improved campgrounds and campground facilities.

3. 3.8% of those opinions shown in Question 22 revealed that they would like to see more and improved roadside rest areas.

4. 3.6% indicated they would like to have more and improved access to public lands. They expressed a strong need for public right-of-ways.

5. 3.2% responded to Question 22 to leave all areas or at least designate certain areas to remain as natural as possible, i.e. primitive areas.

6. 2.4% of the respondents to Question 22 indicated they would like stricter laws and more enforcement to prevent littering in natural and recreational areas.

7. 2.3% of those responding to Question 22 expressed a need for state agencies to curb the pollution problem.

8. 2.0% indicated in Question 22 that they thought the existing recreation areas were too crowded.

9. 1.9% of those responding to Question 22 indicated there should be more patrolling and supervision to control littering and vandalism in recreation areas.

10. 1.9% showed they thought there should be an increase in picnic areas and they should be of higher quality.

11. 1.8% indicated they would like to see the public made more aware of their own individual responsibility in the protection of our outdoor resources through some educational process.

12. 1.6% of the responses showed a desire for more and improved recreation site facilities.

13. 1.5% indicated in Question 22 that they would like to see recreation agencies cut down on development of recreation areas.

14. 1.4% showed they would like to see privately owned roads and land opened up to hunting and fishing.

Other opinions mentioned are not necessarily significant, but when combined with other similar opinions account for a relatively high percentage in Question 22.

1. Questioning the direction of administrative policy on various segments of recreation was also mentioned. 4.6% of the total opinions in Question 22 were on this subject. Some of the comments were as follows: There should be improved relations between recreation officials, caretakers, farmers and recreationists; a change in regulations should be considered as far as affecting general recreation - stricter penalties for littering and pollution for example; land acquisition and sale should be carefully treated for maximization of outdoor recreation.

2. Better educational and informational processes for the general public were also mentioned. Some of the responses went as follows: More informative maps of specific camping and recreational sites; more detailed maps of rivers and landing sites; better signing system throughout the towns and recreation areas; better educational programs to prevent littering and pollution; and stress on individual responsibility in caring for resources. When combined, these comments account for 3.3% of the total responses to Question 22.

3. Many wanted more attention given in the direction of environmental protection. Some comments written in were: stop open pit and strip mining operations; stop clear cutting of forests; too many logging roads tearing up back country--should be closed after use; stop spraying along highways; and save trees when building new highways. Combined, these opinions gathered 2.9% of the comments.

Hunting and Fishing

1. Increased fish stocking in smaller rivers and streams is needed, according to 2.0% of all comments in Question 22.

2. Increased fish stocking in large bodies of water is needed, according to 1.7% of all comments.

3. 1.1% of the responses showed a desire to have more areas opened up for fishing (development of dams, fish ponds, etc.).

Other opinions on hunting and fishing varied widely. Sportsmen also sent in opinions on game management and hunting regulations, such as: open hunting seasons; close elk season earlier; shoot only bulls; plant more game birds; develop more fisheries; need more fishing and hunting access roads; and more game bird protection. There were also many opposite opinions to these statements; however, the above statements received more comments and most of the others balanced out.

Winter Sports

There was very limited response in this area; however, most of the responses that were written concerned snowmobile regulations. For example: people wanted stricter and more enforced laws; wanted to ban snowmobiles from all or most primitive and wilderness areas; wanted designated areas strictly for snowmobiles and other specified areas for other winter sports.

Other responses covered skiing. There were opinions such as: more ski areas were needed; and the need for better access roads to existing ski areas was stated.

Water Sports

Here again there were relatively few responses as compared to other categories. One of the major requests was for more boating facilities (docks, ramps, etc.) at lakes. Another was for an increase in the number of swimming areas. There were many respondents who thought there should be more boat regulations on lakes. Such opinions mentioned were: beaches should be protected against boaters and water skiers; should be special areas set aside for boating; and don't allow motors on small lakes.

Recreation Sites and Maintenance

Comments made about various sites were recorded in Question 22. This amounted to about 9.9% of the opinions stated in that question. Some of these comments were as follows: recreation areas need to be kept cleaner; recreation fees are generally too high; there should be more free areas; there should be a recreational fee to obtain more funding; dogs should not be allowed to run in campgrounds and recreation areas; possibilities of putting showers in recreation areas and campgrounds;

some campgrounds have too many campsites per area of campground; build some sheltered picnic tables; should be more general planning with recreation areas; and don't allow motorcycles in campgrounds.

Wilderness and Primitive Areas

This category received the fewest number of responses to Question 22. Most of these comments were directed toward maximization of recreational potential such as: better trail maintenance in wilderness; want more areas set aside as wilderness and primitive areas; enforce the non-motorized vehicle laws in back country and wilderness areas; leave existing wilderness as is, don't develop more roads; put roads in wilderness and primitive areas to protect against forest fires.

RECREATION USE PROFILE BY ADMINISTRATIVE AGENCY

As one result of the recreation area survey conducted during the summer of 1971, a category of information was derived in which recreationists at some 276 recreation areas and campgrounds evaluated the areas which they were using. The results were categorized by planning region and by administrative agency. It is the latter category which is summarized here.

The recreation area and facilities of the public agencies involved were evaluated, and a picture of the type of recreationist using an agency's area was derived. The paragraphs are numbered to coincide with the preceding questionnaire. The information reflects the characteristics of the user and his evaluation of the selected agency's camping and recreation areas. The statements must be considered only as an average of all those areas at which the survey was taken.

RECREATION AREA SURVEY

By Agency or Administrator

National Park Service (204 returns)

1. 41.2% of recreationists stayed from 3 to 6 nights; 23.0% stayed overnight; only 1.5% were day use visitors.

2. 89.3% of recreationists used travel trailers, campers or tent facilities for sleeping accommodations; 31.4% (included in the 89.3%) used tent facilities, a higher per cent than on any other agency's sites.

3. 67.6% of recreationists chose a NPS recreation site for its surrounding natural beauty; 42.2% chose a site because it was near a desired activity; only 3.9% chose a site because it was near home.

4. Facilities that were rated:
   Excellent: tables, toilets, drinking water, garbage facilities, parking areas, camp sites.
   Good: fireplaces, boat ramps.
   Average: swimming beaches, firewood provision.

5. 35.8% indicated need for additional recreation activities or facilities.

6. Environmental factors rated:
   Excellent: sufficient space, level of maintenance, natural beauty, convenient access, convenient facilities.
   Good: sufficient privacy.

7. Of the total amount of outdoor recreation activity taking place at, or from, National Park Service sites, camping accounts for 14.4%; sightseeing 13.3%; resting and relaxing 12.6%; driving for pleasure 11.4%; hiking 10.8%; walking for pleasure 10.1%.

   91.7% of recreationists using, or based at, National Park Service sites, participated in camping; 82.8% in sightseeing; 75.9% in driving for pleasure; 74.6% in resting and relaxing; 71.5% in hiking; 62.3% in walking for pleasure.

8. Of the total amount of outdoor recreation activity preferred at National Park Service sites, hiking accounts for 23.5%; camping 16.9%; sightseeing 16.8%; fishing 11.7%; resting and relaxing 7.1%; driving for pleasure 5.9%; walking for pleasure 5.6%.

9. The most prevalent party sizes at National Park Service sites were: 2 persons: 41.6%; 4 persons: 24.3%; 3 persons: 9.9%; 5 persons: 6.9%.

10. 89.2% of recreationists came from out of state. 10.8% of recreationists were residents, the greatest number coming from Cascade Co. (3.4%).

U. S. Forest Service (1,217 returns)

1. 29.7% of recreationists stayed from 3 to 6 nights; 20.7% stayed 2 nights.

2. 40.6% of recreationists used travel trailers for sleeping accommodations.

3. 55.5% of recreationists chose a USFS recreation site for its surrounding natural beauty; 45.0% chose a site because it was near a desired activity.

4. Facilities that were rated:
   Excellent: tables, fireplaces, drinking water, garbage facilities, parking areas, camp sites.
   Good: toilets, boat ramps, swimming beaches, firewood provision.

5. 24.6% indicated need for additional recreation activities or facilities.

6. Environmental factors rated:
   Excellent: sufficient privacy, sufficient space, level of maintenance, natural beauty, convenient access, convenient facilities.

7. Of the total amount of outdoor recreation activity taking place at, or from, U. S. Forest Service sites, resting and relaxing accounts for 15.3%; camping 13.8%; fishing 10.5%; walking for pleasure 9.8%; hiking 7.2%; sightseeing 7.2%.

   83.7% of recreationists using, or based at, U.S.F.S. sites participated in resting and relaxing; 80.2% in camping; 60.4% in fishing; 59.4% in walking for pleasure; 49.0% in hiking.

8. Of the total amount of outdoor recreation activity preferred at U. S. Forest Service sites, fishing accounts for 20.0%; resting and relaxing 19.3%; camping 16.7%; hiking 6.7%; walking for pleasure 5.3%.

9. The most prevalent party sizes at U. S. Forest Service sites were: 2 persons: 25.3%; 4 persons: 19.4%; 5 persons: 12.7%; 6 persons: 9.7%.

10. 38.7% of recreationists came from out of state. 61.3% of recreationists were residents, the greatest numbers coming from Yellowstone Co. (14.1%), Cascade Co. (10.5%), Gallatin Co. (5.7%), Missoula Co. (5.3%), and Silver Bow Co. (4.9%).

Bureau of Land Management (61 returns)

1. 37.7% of recreationists stayed overnight; 23.0% were day use visitors.

2. Per cent of recreationists using travel trailers, campers, tent facilities and no sleeping accommodation was about equal.

3. 47.5% of recreationists chose a BLM recreation site because it was near a desired activity; 31.1% chose a site because of its natural beauty; 26.2% chose a site because it was convenient to the highway.

4. Facilities that were rated:
   Excellent: tables, fireplaces, garbage facilities, parking areas.
   Good: toilets, firewood provision, drinking water, camp sites.
   Average: boat ramps.
   Very poor: swimming beaches

5. 36.1% indicated need for additional recreation activities or facilities.

6. Environmental factors rated:
   Excellent: sufficient privacy, sufficient space, level of maintenance, natural beauty, convenient access.
   Good: convenient facilities.

7. Of the total amount of outdoor recreation activity taking place at, or from, Bureau of Land Management sites, resting and relaxing accounts for 15.0%; camping 14.7%; fishing 10.5%; picnicking 9.6%; walking for pleasure 9.6%.

   72.1% of recreationists using, or based at, Bureau of Land Management sites participated in camping; 68.9% in resting and relaxing; 47.5% in picnicking; 47.5% in walking for pleasure; 45.9% in fishing.

8. Of the total amount of outdoor recreation activity preferred at Bureau of Land Management sites, camping accounts for 22.7%; fishing 20.9%; resting and relaxing 14.4%; motor bike riding 7.6%; hiking 7.6%; walking for pleasure 6.9%; back country touring 5.4%.

9. The most prevalent party sizes at Bureau of Land Management sites were: 4 persons: 23.3%; 5 persons: 21.7%; 2 persons: 20.0%.

10. 47.5% of recreationists came from out of state. 52.5% of recreationists were residents, the greatest numbers coming from Phillips Co. (19.7%), Blaine Co. (11.5%) and Hill Co. (8.2%).

Army Corps of Engineers (77 returns)

1. 32.5% of recreationists stayed two nights; 32.5% stayed from 3 to 6 nights.

2. 36.4% of recreationists used campers for sleeping accommodations; 27.3% used travel trailers.

3. 75.3% of recreationists chose an Army recreation site because it was near a desired activity; 31.2% chose a site because it was near home; only 6.5% chose a site because it was convenient to the highway.

4. Facilities that were rated:
   Excellent: parking areas.
   Good: tables, fireplaces, toilets, boat ramps, swimming beaches, drinking water, garbage facilities, camp sites.
   Average: firewood provision.

5. 39.0% indicated need for additional recreation activities or facilities.

6. Environmental factors rated:
   Excellent: sufficient space, natural beauty.
   Good: sufficient privacy, level of maintenance, convenient access, convenient facilities.

7. Of the total amount of outdoor recreation activity taking place at, or from, Army Corps of Engineers sites, resting and relaxing accounts for 13.0%; camping 12.8%; fishing 11.3%; boating with motor 10.9%; picnicking 8.4%.

   80.6% of recreationists using, or based at, Army Corps of Engineers sites participated in camping; 74.1% in resting and relaxing; 65.0% in fishing; 58.5% in boating with motor; 49.4% in picnicking.

8. Of the total amount of outdoor recreation activity preferred at Corps of Engineers sites, fishing accounts for 20.1%; motor boating 17.2%; camping 16.3%; resting and relaxing 10.9%; swimming 10.2%.

9. The most prevalent party sizes at Corps of Engineers sites were: 2 persons: 23.0%; 5 persons: 14.9%; 4 persons: 10.8%; 6 persons: 10.8%.

10. 15.6% of recreationists came from out of state. 83.1% of recreationists were residents, the greatest numbers coming from Roosevelt Co. (36.4%) and Valley Co. (23.4%).

Bureau of Sport Fisheries & Wildlife (5 returns)

1. 60.0% of recreationists were day use visitors; 40.0% stayed overnight.

2. 60.0% of recreationists used no sleeping accommodation.

3. 80.0% of recreationists chose a BSF&W recreation site because it was recommended to them.

4. Facilities that were rated:
   Excellent: tables, firewood provision, garbage facilities, parking areas, camp sites.
   Good: boat ramps, swimming beaches, drinking water.
   Average: fireplaces, toilets.

5. 40.0% indicated need for additional recreation activities or facilities.

6. Environmental factors rated:
   Excellent: sufficient privacy, sufficient space, natural beauty, convenient access.
   Good: level of maintenance, convenient facilities.

7. Of the total amount of outdoor recreation activity taking place at, or from, Bureau of Sport Fisheries & Wildlife sites, swimming accounts for 16.7%; boating with motor 15.4%; water skiing 15.4%; picnicking 14.1%; resting and relaxing 12.8%.

   100.0% of recreationists using, or based at, Bureau of Sport Fisheries & Wildlife sites participated in swimming; 100.0% in picnicking; 100.0% in resting and relaxing; 80.0% in boating with motor; 80.0% in water skiing; 80.0% in camping.

8. Of the total amount of outdoor recreation activity preferred at BSFW sites, water skiing accounts for 36.7%; resting and relaxing 20.0%; swimming 20.0%; motor boating 16.7%.

9. The most prevalent party sizes at BWF&W sites were indeterminable due to the low number of responses.

10. 0.0% of recreationists came from out of state. 100.0% of recreationists were residents, the greatest number coming from Blaine Co. (80.0%).

Montana Fish and Game Department (777 returns)

1. 29.6% of recreationists were day use visitors; 21.2% stayed from 3 to 6 nights; 18.0% stayed overnight.

2. 30.0% of recreationists used travel trailers for sleeping accommodations; 28.2% used no sleeping accommodation (i.e. did not stay overnight); 26.2% used campers.

3. 62.2% of recreationists chose a Fish and Game recreation site because it was near a desired activity; 27.4% chose a site because it was near home; 25.5% chose a site for its surrounding natural beauty.

4. Facilities that were rated:
   Good: tables, fireplaces, toilets, boat ramps, swimming beaches, drinking water, garbage facilities, parking areas, camp sites.
   Average: firewood provision.

5. 41.1% indicated need for additional recreation activities or facilities.

6. Environmental factors rated:
   Good: sufficient privacy, sufficient space, level of maintenance, natural beauty, convenient access, convenient facilities.

7. Of the total amount of outdoor recreation activity taking place at, or from, Montana Fish and Game Department sites, resting and relaxing accounts for 14.6%; camping 13.3%; fishing 13.0%; swimming 8.8%; boating with motor 8.2%.

   71.9% of recreationists using, or based at, Fish and Game sites participated in resting and relaxing; 66.9% in camping; 63.0% in fishing; 42.5% in picnicking; 41.2% in swimming.

8. Of the total amount of outdoor recreation activity preferred at Fish and Game sites, fishing accounts for 25.6%; resting and relaxing 14.0%; camping 12.2%; swimming 11.9%; motor boating 8.1%; water skiing 7.0%; picnicking 5.9%.

9. The most prevalent party sizes at Fish and Game sites were: 2 persons: 24.3%; 4 persons: 18.6%; 5 persons: 11.3%; 3 persons: 11.2%.

10. 30.5% of recreationists came from out of state. 69.3% of recreationists were residents, the greatest numbers coming from Yellowstone Co. (14.2%), Silver Bow Co. (6.8%), Lewis & Clark Co. (5.5%), Gallatin Co. (4.9%) and Missoula Co. (4.9%).

Office of the State Forester (10 returns)

1. 40.0% of recreationists stayed two nights; 40.0% stayed from 3 to 6 nights.

2. Per cent of recreationists using travel trailers, campers, and tent facilities was about equal.

3. 70.0% of recreationists chose a State Forest recreation site for its natural beauty; 50.0% chose a site because it was near a desired activity.

4. Facilities that were rated:
   Excellent: tables, camp sites.
   Good: drinking water, garbage facilities, parking areas.
   Average: toilets, boat ramps, swimming beaches, firewood provision.
   Poor: fireplaces.

5. 20.0% indicated need for additional recreation activities or facilities.

6. Environmental factors rated:
   Excellent: sufficient privacy, sufficient space, level of maintenance, natural beauty.
   Good: convenient access, convenient facilities.

7. Of the total amount of outdoor recreation activity taking place at, or from, Office of the State Forester sites, resting and relaxing accounts for 14.7%; fishing 14.0%; camping 12.5%; sightseeing 10.3%; walking for pleasure 8.8%.

   90.0% of recreationists using, or based at, State Forest sites participated in resting and relaxing; 90.0% in fishing; 90.0% in camping; 60.0% in sightseeing; 50.0% in walking for pleasure; 50.0% in hiking; 50.0% in picnicking.

8. Of the total amount of outdoor recreation activity preferred at State Forest sites, fishing accounts for 28.3%; camping 16.7%; resting and relaxing 15.0%; motor bike riding 8.3%; back country touring 8.3%; picnicking 6.7%; hiking 5.0%.

9. The most prevalent party sizes at State Forest sites were indeterminable due to the low number of responses.

10. 10.0% of recreationists came from out of state. 90.0% of recreationists were residents, the greatest number coming from Flathead Co. (40.0%).

Indian Reservations (44 returns)

1. 47.7% of recreationists were day use visitors; 18.2% stayed two nights.

2. 47.7% of recreationists used no sleeping accommodations; 25.0% used campers for sleeping accommodations.

3. 59.1% of recreationists chose an Indian reservation site because it was near a desired activity; 34.1% chose a site for various other reasons.

4. Facilities that were rated:
   Good: tables, boat ramps, garbage facilities.
   Average: fireplaces, swimming beaches, firewood provision, drinking water, parking areas, camp sites.
   Poor: toilets.

5. 50.0% indicated need for additional recreation activities or facilities.

6. Environmental factors rated:
   Good: natural beauty, convenient access.
   Average: sufficient privacy, sufficient space, level of maintenance, convenient facilities.

7. Of the total amount of outdoor recreation activity taking place at, or from, Indian Reservation sites, resting and relaxing accounts for 15.9%; fishing 14.0%; camping 11.1%; picnicking 10.1%; boating with motor 10.1%.

   65.9% of recreationists using, or based at, Indian Reservation sites, participated in resting and relaxing; 56.9% in fishing; 45.5% in camping; 45.5% in picnicking; 38.6% in swimming.

8. Of the total amount of outdoor recreation activity preferred at Indian Reservation sites, fishing accounts for 24.9%; motor boating 15.6%; resting and relaxing 14.5%; swimming 12.1%; camping 11.0%; picnicking 7.5%; water skiing 7.5%.

9. The most prevalent party sizes at Indian Reservation sites were: 4 persons: 23.3%; 3 persons: 16.3%; 5 persons: 16.3%.

10. 52.3% of recreationists came from out of state. 47.7% of recreationists were residents, the greatest number coming from Missoula Co. (18.2%).

STATEWIDE SUMMARY

By Planning Region

Statewide Inventory of Selected Recreation Facilities
Federal and State Recreation Areas

	Picnic Units	Camping Units	Swimming Area Available	Fishing Access Available	Boat Ramp Available
Region 1					
Bur./Land Management	11	14	0	0	0
Bur. Sport Fish./Wildlife	32	41	1	9	3
Army Corps of Engineers	35	110	3	4	3
Mont. Fish & Game Dept.	13	10	1	4	2
TOTAL	91	175	5	17	8
Region 2					
Bur./Land Management	0	5	0	0	0
Army Corps of Engineers	10	15	1	2	0
Mont. Fish & Game Dept.	60	20	2	5	3
TOTAL	70	40	3	7	3
Region 3					
U. S. Forest Service	11	34	0	0	0
Mont. Fish & Game Dept.	21	15	0	6	1
Indian Reservations	6	10	1	1	0
TOTAL	38	59	1	7	1
Region 4					
Mont. Fish & Game Dept.	73	60	0	3	1
Indian Reservations	5	0	1	1	0
TOTAL	78	60	1	4	1
Region 5					
National Park Service	0	476	0	5	4
U. S. Forest Service	7	127	0	3	1
Bur. Sport Fish./Wildlife	5	0	0	0	0
Mont. Fish & Game Dept.	35	4	1	12	2
Indian Reservations	10	10	0	1	1
TOTAL	57	617	1	21	8
Region 6					
U. S. Forest Service	31	45	0	3	0
Mont. Fish & Game Dept.	50	39	1	5	2
TOTAL	81	84	1	8	2

	Picnic Units	Camping Units	Swimming Area Available	Fishing Access Available	Boat Ramp Available
Region 7					
National Park Service	10	20	0	2	2
U. S. Forest Service	55	308	0	18	0
Mont. Fish & Game Dept.	194	87	1	21	3
Indian Reservations	15	30	0	3	0
TOTAL	274	445	1	44	5
Region 8					
U. S. Forest Service	114	246	0	12	2
Bur./Land Management	10	20	1	1	1
Mont. Fish & Game Dept.	258	248	11	22	12
TOTAL	382	514	12	35	15
Region 9					
U. S. Forest Service	73	520	1	17	1
Mont. Fish & Game Dept.	103	77	0	18	3
TOTAL	176	597	1	35	4
Region 10					
National Park Service	0	674	0	9	3
U. S. Forest Service	173	457	7	19	13
Bur. Sport Fish./Wildlife	10	0	0	2	0
Mont. Fish & Game Dept.	273	218	14	31	19
Office of State Forester	0	28	0	3	0
Indian Reservations	5	20	1	1	1
TOTAL	461	1,397	22	65	36
Region 11					
U. S. Forest Service	127	475	5	23	8
Bur. Sport Fish./Wildlife	25	0	0	2	0
Mont. Fish & Game Dept.	49	101	1	12	6
TOTAL	201	576	6	37	14
Region 12					
U. S. Forest Service	93	558	3	24	8
Bur./Land Management	48	94	0	3	0
Bur. Sport Fish./Wildlife	5	10	0	1	0
Mont. Fish & Game Dept.	130	115	1	22	6
TOTAL	276	777	4	50	14
TATEWIDE GRAND TOTAL	2,185	5,341	58	330	111

DEMAND FOR OUTDOOR RECREATION

DEMAND

The numerical demand estimates used in this edition of the Montana Outdoor Recreation Plan are derived from the 1971 Montana Resident Survey. They are an indication of the magnitude of the various activities and are based on actual participation by Montana residents only, in 1971. They are indicated for the twelve state planning regions and the state as a whole.

The demand figures are understated to an unknown and varying degree because they do not include the impact from the non-resident demand. The current figures would in most instances, be increased.

Countering the understatement of demand is the fact that while Montana residents indicated they participated in various recreation activities, there is no indication of what percentage of those recreationists did so at designated, developed campgrounds, picnic areas and other recreation areas. Although the data is not available, it is known that a relatively high percentage of recreationists do not utilize developed facilities, but recreate in a dispersed manner throughout the available resource. This fact would indicate that the demand figure is probably overstated to an unknown and varying degree.

The selection of potential respondents was selected from the Montana Income Tax rolls, a listing which does not give an all inclusive population from which to choose. Younger people and others not paying an income tax were therefore excluded from the respondents.

These factors must be taken into account when reviewing the present demand figures for each activity. The figures must not be misconstrued to indicate with any finality or high degree of accuracy a true picture of the activity's popularity. While the central purpose of the survey was to secure data which would be useful on a regional and statewide basis, the data are primarily an indication of recreation activity magnitude. The activity data are but one component of the total recreation picture and must be considered in context with other statistical and non-statistical information in order to ascertain a more realistic concept of recreation demand and needs in Montana.

Discussion of Surveyed Activities

Camping

Camping in Montana is the tenth most popular activity by frequency of participation. It accounts for 3.6% of the total time spent by resident recreationists engaged in outdoor recreation statewide. In calculating demand for camping in this plan, it is estimated that seventy percent of all camping occurs on the weekend.

There was no breakdown of camping on the survey questionnaire; thus it is not possible to indicate the percentages of residents who engage in wilderness camping; those who camp in designated developed areas; those who camp in public vs private campgrounds.

In 1965 camping was the twelfth most popular activity nationwide. It is projected that by 1980 participation will increase seventy-eight percent over 1965 participation.

Picnicking

Picnicking is the seventh most popular activity in Montana by frequency of participation. It accounts for 5.6% of all time spent by Montana recreationists engaged in outdoor recreation. In calculating the demand for picnicking, it is estimated that sixty percent of all picnicking is done on the weekend. It is often done in conjunction with other recreational activities such as boating, hiking, swimming and fishing.

National projections estimate that by 1980 demand for picnicking will increase by forty-eight percent over 1965.

Swimming

Swimming is the fifteenth most popular Montana recreation activity by frequency of participation. Swimming accounts for 2.6% of the total time spent by Montana recreationists engaged in outdoor recreation.

The 1971 Resident Demand Survey did not differentiate among swimming in indoor pools, outdoor pools, lakes and rivers. It cannot be established what percentage of those swimming utilized developed facilities or undeveloped areas.

Swimming often occurs in conjunction with other water-oriented recreational activities such as boating, fishing or water skiing. In calculating the demand for swimming, it is estimated that sixty percent of all swimming is done on the weekend.

National projects indicate an increase of approximately seventy-two percent for swimming by 1980.

Boating

This activity includes only motor-boating and is the thirteenth most popular recreation activity statewide by frequency of participation. It accounts for 2.8% of the total time spent by Montana recreationists engaged in outdoor recreation. Other types of boating such as canoeing and sailing were not surveyed individually on the 1971 Resident Demand Survey. Only related river floating and water skiing were surveyed separately.

In determining the demand for boating, it is estimated that sixty percent of all motor boating takes place on the weekend. National projections estimate that by 1980 demand will increase seventy-five percent over 1965.

Fishing

Fishing is the fourth most popular recreation activity in Montana by frequency of participation and accounts for 7.4% of all recreation time spent by residents engaged in outdoor recreation. It is exceeded in popularity only by driving for pleasure, walking for pleasure and sightseeing. No breakdown was obtained between lake and river fishing and ice fishing nor between fishing at developed access sites or dispersed fishing along numerous rivers or lakes. Many fishermen also engage in all forms of fishing at various times. In computing demand for fishing, it is estimated that approximately fifty percent of the fishing is done on the weekend. It is often done in conjunction with camping, picnicking or boating.

Snowskiing

Snowskiing does not rank in the top eighteen most popular activities engaged in by Montana residents. It accounts for less than 1% of the total time spent by Montana residents engaged in outdoor recreation.

No differentiation was made on the 1971 Resident Demand Survey between downhill skiing and cross-country skiing, a form which is growing rapidly.

In calculating the demand for snowskiing, it is estimated that roughly seventy percent of all skiing occurs on weekends. Skiing participation is undoubtedly directly proportional to the snow conditions, topography and facilities. Western Montana has the most favorable conditions to support snowskiing.

Golfing

Golfing ranks seventeenth statewide in popularity in terms of frequency of participation by Montana residents. It accounts for 1.5% of the total time spent by residents engaged in outdoor recreation. To compute the demand for golfing, it is estimated that about sixty percent of all golfing occurs on the weekend.

Snowmobiling

Snowmobiling in Montana is rapidly on the increase and is the sixteenth most popular activity for residents by frequency of participation. It accounts for 1.8% of the total time spent by residents engaged in outdoor recreation. It is participated in during leisure hours in the evenings as well as weekends. In calculating the demand for snowmobiling, it is estimated that approximately eighty percent of all snowmobiling occurs on the weekend.

Snowmobiling is often done in conjunction with ice fishing, snowshoeing, skiing and other snow-oriented activities.

River Floating

River floating includes floating on a river or stream on any kind of non-powered boat or raft. In Montana there are almost unlimited opportunities for river floating in a three month period.

River floating is an activity which is increasing in popularity each year in Montana, even though it does not rank in the top eighteen most popular activities engaged. It accounts for less than one percent of the total time spent by Montana residents engaged in outdoor recreation. Increased numbers of river access sites are needed. Other water-oriented activities are often done in conjunction with river floating. In computing the demand for river floating, it is estimated that eighty percent of all river floating is done on the weekend.

Hiking

This activity excludes casual walking and nature walks and includes only walking done on trails with packs. According to residents, it ranks twelfth in popularity, by frequency of participation and accounts for 2.9% of the total time spent by Montana residents engaged in outdoor recreation. Young people between the ages of 12 and 20 are the principal hikers nationwide. To compute the demand for hiking, it is estimated that eighty percent of all hiking occurs on the weekend. National projections estimate that by 1980 there will be an increase in demand of seventy-eight percent over 1965.

Horseback Riding

Horseback riding is the fourteenth most popular activity as indicated by Montanans on the 1971 Resident Demand Survey. In terms of frequency of participation, it accounts for 2.7% of all time spent by residents engaged in outdoor recreation.

In determining the demand for horseback riding, it was estimated that approximately fifty percent of all horseback riding occurs on the weekend. National trends indicate that the demand for this activity should increase by forty-four percent between 1965 and 1980.

Hunting

Various types of hunting were not differentiated on the 1971 Resident Demand Survey. Included were bird hunting, waterfowl hunting and big game hunting.

Hunting ranks as the eighth most popular activity by residents in terms of frequency of participation. It accounts for 4.4% of the total time spent by residents engaged in outdoor recreation. In computing the demand for hunting, it is estimated that approximately seventy percent of all hunting takes place on the weekend.

Bicycling

Bicycling is Montana's ninth most popular resident activity by frequency of participation. It accounts for 3.8% of all recreation time spent by residents engaged in outdoor recreation. Bicycling, primarily a local, urban oriented activity, where young persons and children are the major participants, is a rapidly growing activity.

The 1971 Resident Demand Survey did not differentiate between local bicycling and bicycle touring. In calculating the demand for bicycling, it is estimated that only forty percent of all bicycling occurs on the weekend, the balance taking place during the week.

Motor Bike Riding

Much of the motor bike riding, as recreation, is done on forest, mountain and grassland trails and is often referred to as "trail-biking." This activity is also growing in popularity as many younger persons participate in trail-biking. There are no national projections presently available.

Motor bike riding is the eleventh most popular recreation activity in Montana by frequency of participation. It accounts for 3.5% of the total time spent by Montana recreationists engaged in outdoor recreation. In computing the demand for motor bike riding, it is estimated that sixty percent of all motor bike riding for recreation occurs on the weekend.

Driving for Pleasure

The Montana 1971 Resident Demand Survey indicates that driving for pleasure is the number one outdoor recreation activity in the state. It ranks nearly as high nationwide reflecting the American's controversial dependence on the automobile. This activity is often related to other activities such as picnicking, camping, boating, hiking, fishing, sightseeing, snowmobiling in which the drive to a specific area is one of pleasure.

By 1980, driving for pleasure is expected to increase approximately sixty-three percent over 1965. In Montana driving for pleasure accounts for 18.4% of the total time spent by residents engaged in outdoor recreation, a substantial one fifth of all recreation time. For computing the demand for this activity, it is estimated that fifty percent of all pleasure driving takes place on the weekend.

Back Country Touring

This activity as surveyed includes only 4-wheel drive type vehicles used for back country recreation. It is often done in conjunction with other activities such as hunting, camping, sightseeing or picnicking. Back country touring is growing rapidly in popularity in Montana, but because of the potential for damaging the land, has come under strict control in order to restrict them to established roads.

On the 1971 Resident Demand Survey, back country touring ranks fifth in popularity in terms of frequency of participation. It is exceeded in popularity only by driving for pleasure, walking for pleasure, sightseeing and fishing. It accounts for 5.7% of the total time spent by residents engaged in outdoor recreation. In computing the demand for back country touring, it is estimated that seventy percent of all back country touring occurs on the weekend.

Ice Skating

This localized type of activity does not rank in the top eighteen most popular activities of Montana residents. It accounts for less than one percent of all recreation time spent by residents engaged in outdoor recreation. The opportunity to ice skate depends mostly on the availability of man-made rinks so most ice skating in Montana occurs outside, no differentiation was made between outdoor and indoor skating. In computing demand, it is estimated that fifty percent of all ice skating takes place on the weekend.

Mountain Climbing

This activity includes climbing where specialized gear is required and does include rock climbing. There is unlimited opportunity in Montana for mountain and rock climbing. This activity does not rank in the top eighteen most popular resident activites and accounts for slightly less than one percent of all recreation time spent by residents engaged in outdoor recreation. In determining demand, it is estimated that ninety percent of all mountain climbing takes place on the weekend.

Playing Outdoor Games

Ranking as the sixth most popular outdoor recreation activity of Montanans, playing outdoor games accounts for 5.7% of all recreation time spent by residents engaged in outdoor recreation. Young persons make up the majority of those participating in such games as tennis, horseshoes, badminton, basketball, softball and other games not professionally or educationally organized. To compute demand for these games, it is assumed that only thirty-five percent of all these activities generally local in nature, takes place on the weekend.

Rock Hounding

Montana has abundant mineral resources for the rock hound, although a specialized knowledge is usually required to enjoy participation in this activity. Rock hounding ranks eighteenth in popularity, in terms of frequency of participation and accounts for 1.1% of the total time spent by residents participating in outdoor recreation activities. In calculating demand for this activity, it is estimated that eighty percent of all rock hounding occurs on weekends and in conjunction with camping and other related activities.

Sightseeing

No differentiation was made between car sightseeing and sightseeing on foot or bicycle. The majority undoubtedly occurs in conjunction with an automobile and includes driving to and observing, by car or on foot, historic, cultural, natural or other places of interest. It is often done in conjunction with many other activities.

Sightseeing, closely related to driving, ranks as the third most popular activity according to Montana residents. It is exceeded only by driving for pleasure and walking for pleasure, and accounts for 9.3% of the total time spent by residents engaged in recreation, by frequency of participation. In computing the demand for sightseeing, it is estimated that fifty percent of this activity occurs on the weekend.

Tobogganing and Sledding

These two localized activities account for less than one percent of the total time spent by residents in recreating outdoors. They do not rank among the eighteen most popular activities in the state according to residents. Young persons and children make up the majority of the participants. In computing demand, an estimate that forty percent of all tobogganing and sledding takes place on the weekend.

Walking for Pleasure

This activity ranks as the second most popular in the state, and is exceeded only by driving for pleasure. Nationwide, it is the number one activity. In Montana, it accounts for 11.3% of the total time spent by residents engaged in outdoor recreation. Nationwide, it has increased in popularity faster than any other outdoor recreation activity since 1960. For computing the demand for this activity, it is estimated that forty percent of all pleasure walking occurs on the weekend.

Water Skiing

Water skiing accounts for less than one percent of the total time spent by residents in recreating outdoors. Young persons make up the majority of the participants. Water skiing does not rank in the eighteen most popular activities in Montana according to residents. Opportunity for water skiing is limited by the size of the water resource in particular. In determining demand, it is estimated that seventy-five percent of all water skiing occurs on the weekend.

ESTIMATED FACILITY CAPACITY

The following tables on Demand Approximation (and the regional inventory of selected facilities) include only facilities presently supplied and administered by the Federal and State public agencies and a small number of selected sites located on Indian reservation land.

For most recreation activities studied,no estimation of needs can adequately be made. Only for camping, picnicking, snow skiing and golf is supply and facility capacity information detailed and sophisticated enough to permit 1) the calculation of estimated facility capacity and 2) the resultant surplus demand (indication of need). For other activities, there is insufficient detailed data available on recreation areas, beaches, trail mileages, etc. which occommodate the activities in order to calculate facility capacities. For camping, picnicking, snow skiing, and golfing, arbitrary and accepted standards of use have been used along with accepted turnover rates to determine capacities, as follows:

Standards Used:

Camping

Average number of persons a campsite will accommodate	4
Turnover rate, per date, per unit	1

Picnicking

Average number of persons a picnic site will accommodate	4
Turnover rate per day, per unit	2

Snow Skiing

Individual ski areas considered using lift and tow hourly capacities.

A six-hour skiing day is used.

Golfing

A nine-hole gold course will accommodate 30 golfers per hour.

An eight-hour golding day is used.

The facilities included on the inventory and used in facility capacity calculations must, by necessity, include only those major, designated, developed recreation areas, ie. campgrounds, picnic areas, beaches, fishing access sites, state monuments and parks, ski areas and golf courses. It must be realized that with the presence of thousands of acres of public land available for recreation opportunity, that much dispersed recreation takes place at undesignated, undeveloped areas. Therefore, the reliance placed upon such inflexible supply and needs data even when available must be done with prudence, always considering the dispersal factor.

For other activities than those four major ones mentioned above, specific data is not presently available to determine acreage or other capacities (eg. swimming beaches, boating access areas); or there has not been enough study done to determine capacities (eg. river floating, fishing access sites); or data is not feasible to obtain or impossible to determine the facilities necessary to satisfy the need for such activities (eg. driving for pleasure, walking for pleasure); or the use is so dipersed that facilities are not generally required (eg. hunting, mountain climbing).

FACILITY COMMITMENTS

Where applicable, specific programmed development and acquisition projects are enumerated and identified as to units or sites. Their impact is taken into account when computing the demand factor.

COMPUTATION OF DEMAND

Pursuant to requirement inherent in federally funded planning programs of this kind, long range projections for demands for given activities were developed. Using 1970 as a base period, the projections were continued through to 1990. The charts are found on subsequent pages of this report. In view of the rapid changes in the rates of participation and in the factors that affect participation, the projection figures beyond the year 1975 are of limited value, and are essentially an indication of how trends appear at this time. Projection figures will need to be constantly updated to be even of minimum usefulness.

In the study of demand, one of the basic objectives was the determination of unmet needs for given facilities and recreation resources. The commonly used planning method is to compute the capacity of present facilities and subtract this figure from the figure representing a projected demand for such a facility. As returns began to be analyzed it became apparent that various unknowns would limit the ability to make accurate forecasts of needs, i.e., the difference between present capacity and demand. The camping situation illustrates this condition particularly well.

A considerable but unknown quantity of camping occurs at undeveloped areas on the public lands, obviously because of the preference of the camper for this type of activity. Therefore, the figure for the total number of camping occasions cannot be translated into a related number or ratio of developed units to satisfy this demand, based upon present information. Planning efforts need to be directed toward the determination of the approximate ratio of camping occuring on developed park and recreation areas, at private campgrounds and resorts, and on the vast areas of the public lands in the state.

With the above circumstances to consider, the information on supply, demand and need was arranged as follows:

Camping

1. Camping occasions per weekend were calculated
2. Present capacity of existing facilities was determined.
3. Planned additions to capacity were noted.
4. The resultant total was subtracted from calculated demand.
5. The difference is theoretically unmet demand.

In order to avoid the erroneous implication that the resultant demand figure would require developed facilities in the same proportion as that taking place at developed areas, the resultant figure was labeled Non-facility Oriented Demand on the tabular summary. It is recognized that a portion of this demand will be fulfilled by developed facilities, however, and thus development will continue particularly where demands remain high.

The participation rate (demand) for activities will vary from region to region and will be directly influenced by the quality of the natural environment areas available for the activity. Also, a high standard of development encourages further participation and so raises the demand level. Far from being a static figure, the demand for activities can be manipulated in a number of ways. In a state such as Montana, merely providing adequate information on recreation opportunity will increase the desire to participate. An obvious influence upon camping demand in recent years has been the effort of equipment manufacturers to provide functional and attractive vehicles and other accouterments.

At some point in the future, demand would theoretically stabilize or reach a peak of activity of some kind. With the almost infinite variety of alternatives available to residents and visitors, it will be some time before this condition is reached in this state. In the interim period, efforts of the providing agencies will be directed along the standards proposed in Volume I of the plan, the Executive Summary. The standards reflect this desire to have access to a great variety of areas and resources, all without reference to quantitative ratios of facilities to demand.

DEMAND CALCULATIONS

Following are two tabular summaries of calculations relative to demand.

The first summary shows the 1971 demand in occasions per weekend together with the estimated demand which is unfulfilled by present facilities, for selected facilities only.

The second summary shows the calculations of estimated demand as projected from 1970 through 1990. Because long range population projections were not available at the time of computation, these tables must be revised to reflect the corrected population figures as they become available.

The tabular summaries are presented in terms of the 12 official state planning regions. An impending change in regional boundaries must accordingly be reflected in future calculations.

REGION 1

1971 DEMAND APPROXIMATION FOR SELECTED ACTIVITIES

ACTIVITY	MAXIMUM DEMAND Occasions/ Weekend	ESTIMATED FACILITY CAPACITY Occasions/ Weekend	FACILITY COMMITMENTS	Non-Facility Oriented DEMAND Occasions/ Weekend
Camping	4,200	1,400	0	2,800
Picnicking	5,400	1,500	0	3,900
Swimming	2,800	*	0	*
Boating	3,600	*	0	*
Fishing	3,800	*	1 site	*
Snow Skiing	1,000	0	0	1,000
Golfing	1,900	1,400	0	500
Snowmobiling	6,100	*	0	*
River Floating	1,800	*	0	*
Hiking	4,200	*	0	*
Horseback Riding	3,200	*	0	*
Hunting	7,200	*	0	*
Bicycling	3,800	*	0	*
Driving for Pleasure	10,100	*	0	*
Sightseeing	4,000	*	0	*
Walking for Pleasure	5,400	*	0	*

REGION 2

1971 DEMAND APPROXIMATION FOR SELECTED ACTIVITIES

ACTIVITY	MAXIMUM DEMAND Occasions/ Weekend	ESTIMATED FACILITY CAPACITY Occasions/ Weekend	FACILITY COMMITMENTS	NON-FACILITY ORIENTED DEMAND Occasions/ Weekend
Camping	5,400	300	0	5,100
Picnicking	5,600	1,100	0	4,500
Swimming	3,800	*	0	*
Boating	2,300	*	0	*
Fishing	5,100	*	0	*
Snow Skiing	700	0	0	700
Golfing	900	1,000	0	-----
Snowmobiling	4,500	*	0	*
River Floating	1,600	*	0	*
Hiking	3,100	*	0	*
Horseback Riding	2,400	*	0	*
Hunting	6,700	*	0	*
Bicycling	2,700	*	0	*
Driving for Pleasure	8,800	*	0	*
Sightseeing	4,600	*	0	*
Walking for Pleasure	3,800	*	0	*

REGION 3

1971 DEMAND APPROXIMATION FOR SELECTED ACTIVITIES

ACTIVITY	MAXIMUM DEMAND Occasions/ Weekend	ESTIMATED FACILITY CAPACITY Occasions/ Weekend	FACILITY COMMIT-MENTS	NON-FACILITY ORIENTED DEMAND Occasions/ Weekend
Camping	4,900	500	100 occ.	4,300
Picnicking	5,900	600	0	5,300
Swimming	5,900	*	0	*
Boating	2,200	*	1 boat ramp	*
Fishing	3,700	*	1 site	*
Snow Skiing	700	0	0	700
Golfing	2,100	1,400	0	700
Snowmobiling	3,500	*	0	*
River Floating	1,500	*	0	*
Hiking	7,400	*	0	*
Horseback Riding	2,000	*	0	*
Hunting	5,200	*	0	*
Bicycling	3,900	*	0	*
Driving for Pleasure	7,400	*	0	*
Sightseeing	4,500	*	0	*
Walking for Pleasure	4,500	*	0	*

REGION 4

1971 DEMAND APPROXIMATION FOR SELECTED ACTIVITIES

ACTIVITY	MAXIMUM DEMAND Occasions/ Weekend	ESTIMATED FACILITY CAPACITY Occasions/ Weekend	FACILITY COMMIT-MENTS	NON-FACILITY OREINTED DEMAND Occasions/ Weekend
Camping	6,600	500	0	6,100
Picnicking	6,500	1,200	200 occ.	5,100
Swimming	3,100	*	0	*
Boating	2,700	*	0	*
Fishing	4,900	*	0	*
Snow Skiing	2,200	1,600	0	600
Golfing	2,900	500	0	2,400
Snowmobiling	3,400	*	0	*
River Floating	1,000	*	0	*
Hiking	3,600	*	0	*
Horseback Riding	2,500	*	0	*
Hunting	7,500	*	0	*
Bicycling	2,000	*	0	*
Driving for Pleasure	10,000	*	0	*
Sightseeing	3,800	*	0	*
Walking for Pleasure	3,900	*	0	*

REGION 5

1971 DEMAND APPROXIMATION FOR SELECTED ACTIVITIES

ACTIVITY	MAXIMUM DEMAND Occasions/ Weekend	ESTIMATED FACILITY CAPACITY Occasions/ Weekend	FACILITY COMMIT-MENTS	NON - FACILITY ORIENTED DEMAND Occasions/ Weekend
Camping	24,700	5,000	0	19,700
Picnicking	22,500	900	300 occ.	21,300
Swimming	15,800	*	0	*
Boating	14,700	*	1 boat ramp	*
Fishing	22,600	*	2 sites	*
Snow Skiing	5,700	14,400	0	------
Golfing	6,400	4,800	0	1,600
Snowmobiling	15,300	*	0	*
River Floating	6,400	*	0	*
Hiking	14,200	*	0	*
Horseback Riding	7,300	*	0	*
Hunting	20,400	*	0	*
Bicycling	8,700	*	0	*
Driving for Pleasure	36,700	*	0	*
Sightseeing	19,500	*	0	*
Walking for Pleasure	14,600	*	0	*

REGION 6

1971 DEMAND APPROXIMATION FOR SELECTED ACTIVITIES

ACTIVITY	MAXIMUM DEMAND Occasions/ Weekend	ESTIMATED FACILITY CAPACITY Occasions/ Weekend	FACILITY COMMIT-MENTS	NON-FACILITY ORIENTED DEMAND Occasions/ Weekend
Camping	4,000	700	0	3,300
Picnicking	5,200	1,300	0	3,900
Swimming	6,000	*	0	*
Boating	1,300	*	0	*
Fishing	3,900	*	2 sites	*
Snow Skiing	1,500	2,000	0	-----
Golfing	2,200	1,400	0	800
Snowmobiling	5,100	*	0	*
River Floating	500	*	0	*
Hiking	2,600	*	0	*
Horseback Riding	1,900	*	0	*
Hunting	7,100	*	0	*
Bicycling	2,000	*	0	*
Driving for Pleasure	5,700	*	0	*
Sightseeing	4,100	*	0	*
Walking for Pleasure	3,600	*	0	*

REGION 7

1971 DEMAND APPROXIMATION FOR SELECTED ACTIVITIES

ACTIVITY	MAXIMUM DEMAND Occasions/ Weekend	ESTIMATED FACILITY CAPACITY Occasions/ Weekend	FACILITY COMMIT-MENTS	NON-FACILITY ORIENTED DEMAND Occasions/ Weekend
Camping	21,400	3,600	400 occ.	17,400
Picnicking	19,200	4,400	0	14,800
Swimming	14,700	*	0	*
Boating	11,800	*	1 site	*
Fishing	18,500	*	3 sites	*
Snow Skiing	7,600	9,600	0	------
Golfing	8,000	4,300	0	3,700
Snowmobiling	8,000	*	0	*
River Floating	3,700	*	0	*
Hiking	17,700	*	0	*
Horseback Riding	4,500	*	0	*
Hunting	21,700	*	0	*
Bicycling	7,300	*	0	*
Driving for Pleasure	33,600	*	0	*
Sightseeing	16,500	*	0	*
Walking for Pleasure	15,800	*	0	*

REGION 8

1971 DEMAND APPROXIMATION FOR SELECTED ACTIVITIES

ACTIVITY	MAXIMUM DEMAND Occasions/ Weekend	ESTIMATED FACILITY CAPACITY Occasions/ Weekend	FACILITY COMMIT-MENTS	NON-FACILITY ORIENTED DEMAND Occasions/ Weekend
Camping	10,200	4,100	400 occ.	5,700
Picnicking	10,800	6,100	800 occ.	3,900
Swimming	8,800	*	0	*
Boating	8,000	*	2 boat ramps	*
Fishing	8,000	*	0	*
Snow Skiing	3,600	8,800	0	-----
Golfing	3,700	1,000	0	2,700
Snowmobiling	4,800	*	0	*
River Floating	1,400	*	0	*
Hiking	6,600	*	0	*
Horseback Riding	4,700	*	0	*
Hunting	6,200	*	0	*
Bicycling	2,500	*	0	*
Driving for Pleasure	10,500	*	0	*
Sightseeing	8,600	*	0	*
Walking for Pleasure	6,700	*	0	*

REGION 9

1971 DEMAND APPROXIMATION FOR SELECTED ACTIVITIES

ACTIVITY	MAXIMUM DEMAND Occasions/ Weekend	ESTIMATED FACILITY CAPACITY Occasions/ Weekend	FACILITY COMMIT-MENTS	NON-FACILITY ORIENTED DEMAND Occasions/ Weekend
Camping	10,900	4,800	0	6,100
Picnicking	9,800	2,800	0	7,000
Swimming	5,700	*	0	*
Boating	5,000	*	0	*
Fishing	10,900	*	1 site	*
Snow skiing	5,600	20,300	0	----
Golfing	2,800	1,400	0	1,400
Snowmobiling	7,800	*	0	*
River floating	4,300	*	0	*
Hiking	7,200	*	0	*
Horseback riding	2,900	*	0	*
Hunting	7,300	*	0	*
Bicycling	4,200	*	0	*
Driving for Pleasure	9,700	*	0	*
Sightseeing	8,600	*	0	*
Walking for Pleasure	7,500	*	0	*

REGION 10

1971 DEMAND APPROXIMATION FOR SELECTED ACTIVITIES

ACTIVITY	MAXIMUM DEMAND Occasions/ Weekend	ESTIMATED FACILITY CAPACITY Occasions/ Weekend	FACILITY COMMIT-MENTS	NON-FACILITY ORIENTED DEMAND Occasions/ Weekend
Camping	12,600	12,800	500 occ.	----
Picnicking	19,300	4,100	700 occ.	14,500
Swimming	15,200	*	1 beach	*
Boating	11,700	*	2 boat ramps	*
Fishing	12,800	*	1 site	*
Snow skiing	4,400	12,900	0	----
Golfing	5,200	2,900	0	2,300
Snowmobiling	8,600	*	0	*
River floating	2,500	*	0	*
Hiking	11,400	*	0	*
Horseback riding	5,500	*	0	*
Hunting	25,900	*	0	*
Bicycling	7,200	*	0	*
Driving for Pleasure	21,800	*	0	*
Sightseeing	15,000	*	0	*
Walking for Pleasure	12,000	*	0	*

REGION 11

1971 DEMAND APPROXIMATION FOR SELECTED ACTIVITIES

ACTIVITY	MAXIMUM DEMAND Occasions/ Weekend	ESTIMATED FACILITY CAPACITY Occasions/ Weekend	FACILITY COMMIT- MENTS	NON-FACILITY ORIENTED DEMAND Occasions/ Weekend
Camping	18,400	4,600	400 occ.	13,400
Picnicking	21,000	3,200	600 occ.	17,200
Swimming	16,300	*	1 beach	*
Boating	11,100	*	2 boat ramps	*
Fishing	16,000	*	3 sites	*
Snow skiing	11,200	21,500	0	----
Golfing	4,100	2,900	0	1,200
Snowmobiling	11,800	*	0	*
River floating	4,900	*	0	*
Hiking	16,500	*	0	*
Horseback riding	6,500	*	0	*
Hunting	19,900	*	0	*
Bicycling	8,900	*	0	*
Driving for Pleasure	21,600	*	0	*
Sightseeing	13,500	*	0	*
Walking for Pleasure	17,100	*	0	*

REGION 12

1971 DEMAND APPROXIMATION FOR SELECTED ACTIVITIES

ACTIVITY	MAXIMUM DEMAND Occasions/ Weekend	ESTIMATED FACILITY CAPACITY Occasions/ Weekend	FACILITY COMMIT- MENTS	NON-FACILITY ORIENTED DEMAND Occasions/ Weekend
Camping	16,600	6,200	300 occ.	10,100
Picnicking	24,300	4,300	300 occ.	19,700
Swimming	9,200	*	1 beach	*
Boating	8,800	*	1 boat ramp	*
Fishing	15,900	*	4 sites	*
Snow skiing	5,800	12,200	0	----
Golfing	5,900	2,900	0	3,000
Snowmobiling	13,900	*	0	*
River floating	3,600	*	0	*
Hiking	14,600	*	0	*
Horseback riding	3,700	*	0	*
Hunting	15,600	*	0	*
Bicycling	5,300	*	0	*
Driving for Pleasure	21,000	*	0	*
Sightseeing	16,800	*	0	*
Walking for Pleasure	13,200	*	0	*

DEMAND PROJECTIONS FOR SELECTED ACTIVITIES
(In Terms of Occasions per Weekend)

Region 1

ACTIVITY OCCASIONS	1970	1975	1980	1985	1990
Camping	4,200	4,860	4,580	4,890	4,780
Picnicking	5,400	5,765	5,420	5,380	5,270
Swimming	2,800	3,190	4,290	3,180	3,120
Boating	3,600	4,130	3,890	4,055	3,950
Fishing	3,800	3,845	3,615	3,530	3,460
Hiking	4,200	4,645	4,580	4,710	4,615
Driving	10,100	10,875	10,220	9,980	9,780
Sightseeing	4,000	4,345	4,085	4,185	4,110
Walking	5,400	5,765	5,420	5,380	5,270

385405

Region 2

ACTIVITY OCCASIONS	1970	1975	1980	1985	1990
Camping	5,400	6,530	6,340	6,900	6,830
Picnicking	5,600	6,240	6,050	6,130	6,070
Swimming	3,800	4,650	4,510	4,770	4,730
Boating	2,300	2,760	2,680	2,835	2,810
Fishing	5,100	5,390	5,220	5,210	5,160
Hiking	3,100	3,750	3,640	3,820	3,780
Driving	8,800	9,890	9,570	9,550	9,430
Sightseeing	4,600	5,330	5,170	5,410	5,355
Walking	3,800	4,350	4,220	4,450	4,410

421,525

DEMAND PROJECTIONS FOR SELECTED ACTIVITIES
(In Terms of Occasions per Weekend)

Region 3

ACTIVITY OCCASIONS	1970	1975	1980	1985	1990
Camping	4,900	6,050	5,960	6,520	6,460
Picnicking	5,900	6,710	6,610	6,730	6,660
Swimming	5,900	7,170	7,060	7,520	7,440
Boating	2,200	2,700	2,650	2,820	2,800
Fishing	3,700	3,990	3,930	3,940	3,900
Hiking	7,400	9,140	9,000	9,500	9,410
Driving	7,400	8,480	8,355	8,370	8,290
Sightseeing	4,500	5,200	5,130	5,390	5,340
Walking	4,500	5,115	5,040	5,350	5,295

463,320

Region 4

ACTIVITY OCCASIONS	1970	1975	1980	1985	1990
Camping	6,600	7,985	7,745	8,430	8,345
Picnicking	6,500	6,240	6,050	5,930	5,870
Swimming	3,100	3,690	3,540	4,055	3,710
Boating	2,700	3,040	3,145	3,325	3,345
Fishing	4,900	5,175	5,020	5,010	4,960
Hiking	3,600	4,355	4,220	4,435	4,385
Driving	10,000	11,235	10,890	10,860	10,750
Sightseeing	3,800	4,300	4,170	4,335	4,330
Walking	3,900	4,300	4,205	4,435	4,395

499915

DEMAND PROJECTIONS FOR SELECTED ACTIVITIES
(In Terms of Occasions per Weekend)

Region 5

ACTIVITY OCCASIONS	1970	1975	1980	1985	1990
Camping	24,700	31,430	32,345	35,450	35,625
Picnicking	22,500	26,360	26,625	27,680	27,820
Swimming	15,800	19,790	19,990	21,705	21,815
Boating	14,700	19,805	20,005	21,715	21,825
Fishing	22,600	25,105	25,360	25,950	26,685
Hiking	14,200	18,075	18,260	20,665	20,760
Driving	36,700	43,375	43,795	44,780	45,000
Sightseeing	19,500	23,240	23,475	25,195	25,325
Walking	14,600	16,105	17,280	18,735	18,810

66 4910

Region 6

ACTIVITY OCCASIONS	1970	1975	1980	1985	1990
Camping	4,000	4,690	4,450	4,800	4,750
Picnicking	5,200	5,610	5,330	5,350	5,295
Swimming	6,000	6,920	6,570	6,890	6,820
Boating	1,300	1,510	1,440	1,510	1,490
Fishing	3,900	3,990	3,790	3,740	3,710
Hiking	2,600	3,050	2,890	3,010	2,980
Driving	5,700	6,200	5,890	5,810	5,760
Sightseeing	4,100	4,500	4,275	4,430	4,385
Walking	3,600	3,885	3,690	3,860	3,820

694,965

DEMAND PROJECTIONS FOR SELECTED ACTIVITIES
(In Terms of Occasions per Weekend)

Region 7

ACTIVITY OCCASIONS	1970	1975	1980	1985	1990
Camping	21,400	27,780	28,330	32,090	32,430
Picnicking	19,200	22,950	23,400	24,700	24,940
Swimming	14,700	18,770	19,145	21,100	21,320
Boating	11,800	15,200	15,500	17,065	17,250
Fishing	18,500	20,960	21,380	22,205	22,420
Hiking	17,700	22,960	23,435	25,600	25,880
Driving	33,600	40,490	41,300	42,850	43,300
Sightseeing	16,500	20,055	20,445	22,280	22,510
Walking	15,800	18,880	19,260	21,160	21,380

Region 8

ACTIVITY OCCASIONS	1970	1975	1980	1985	1990
Camping	10,200	13,990	14,840	17,145	17,490
Picnicking	10,800	13,535	14,115	15,435	15,745
Swimming	8,800	11,780	12,490	14,035	14,325
Boating	8,000	10,800	11,450	12,860	13,125
Fishing	8,000	9,500	10,075	10,670	10,885
Hiking	6,600	8,985	9,525	10,620	10,835
Driving	10,500	13,270	14,065	14,875	15,175
Sightseeing	8,600	10,960	11,620	12,900	13,160
Walking	6,700	8,400	8,905	9,985	10,185

DEMAND PROJECTIONS FOR SELECTED ACTIVITIES
(In Terms of Occasions per Weekend)

Region 9

ACTIVITY OCCASIONS	1970	1975	1980	1985	1990
Camping	10,900	14,285	14,710	16,675	16,845
Picnicking	9,800	11,825	12,180	12,855	12,985
Swimming	5,700	7,355	7,565	7,345	8,430
Boating	5,000	6,500	6,700	6,840	7,460
Fishing	10,900	12,475	12,850	13,345	13,450
Hiking	7,200	9,440	9,800	11,305	11,780
Driving	9,700	11,805	12,165	12,620	12,750
Sightseeing	8,600	10,460	10,775	11,740	11,860
Walking	7,500	9,050	9,300	10,340	11,375

993,060

Region 10

ACTIVITY OCCASIONS	1970	1975	1980	1985	1990
Camping	12,600	17,465	18,865	22,220	23,115
Picnicking	19,300	24,630	26,600	29,170	30,340
Swimming	15,200	20,745	22,400	25,660	26,680
Boating	11,700	16,090	17,375	19,795	20,690
Fishing	12,800	15,490	16,735	17,725	18,435
Hiking	11,400	15,800	17,070	19,390	20,165
Driving	21,800	28,060	33,305	32,915	34,240
Sightseeing	15,000	19,470	23,375	26,475	27,535
Walking	12,000	15,315	16,545	18,770	19,520

1,124,030

DEMAND PROJECTIONS FOR SELECTED ACTIVITIES
(In Terms of Occasions per Weekend)

Region 11

ACTIVITY OCCASIONS	1970	1975	1980	1985	1990
Camping	18,400	25,500	27,535	32,435	33,730
Picnicking	21,000	26,800	28,940	31,740	33,010
Swimming	16,300	22,230	24,010	27,495	28,590
Boating	11,100	15,260	16,485	18,880	19,620
Fishing	16,000	19,360	20,910	22,570	23,470
Hiking	16,500	22,870	24,700	28,055	29,175
Driving	21,600	27,800	30,030	32,370	33,665
Sightseeing	13,500	17,520	18,920	21,420	22,270
Walking	17,100	21,830	23,565	26,910	27,990

Region 12

ACTIVITY OCCASIONS	1970	1975	1980	1985	1990
Camping	16,600	20,095	19,485	21,220	21,000
Picnicking	24,300	27,065	25,985	26,380	26,085
Swimming	9,200	10,955	10,630	11,260	11,150
Boating	8,800	10,565	10,225	10,830	10,720
Fishing	15,900	16,805	16,305	16,380	16,220
Hiking	14,600	17,665	17,140	17,995	16,470
Driving	21,000	23,590	22,895	22,790	22,565
Sightseeing	16,800	19,035	18,465	19,325	19,125
Walking	13,200	14,705	14,265	15,065	14,915

MONTANA RECREATION AREA SURVEY

Instructions: Most of the following questions are about the Montana recreation area listed below which you were using when this questionnaire was left at your vehicle or when you were contacted:

Montana Recreation Area ____________________ Date ____________________

Please fill out this questionnaire when you return home from the trip or have left this recreation area. Many of the questions can be answered by checking a statement that most accurately describes your thoughts about the question Your answers are confidential. Please return your completed questionnaire in the enclosed addressed, postage-paid envelope. Thank you for your time and effort.

1. How long were you at this recreation site?

☐ One day or less, but not overnight
☐ Overnight
☐ Two nights
☐ More than two nights but less than seven nights
☐ Seven nights or more

2. What type of sleeping accommodations did you use while at this recreation site? (If more than one type, check the one most frequently used.)

☐ None, did not stay overnight
☐ Travel trailer
☐ Camper
☐ Tent
☐ Slept out-of-doors
☐ Other -- please explain: ____________________

3. Why did you choose to use this particular recreation area? (Check more than one answer if needed.)

☐ Near home
☐ Convenient to highway
☐ Natural beauty
☐ Recommended by friends or relatives
☐ Near some desired activity (such as swimming, boating, picnicking, etc.)
☐ Other reason -- please explain: ____________________

4. Please check the adequacy of facilities at this recreation area.

Facilities	Did Not Use or Were Not Available	Adequacy of Facilities Used				
		Excellent	Good	Average	Poor	Very Poor
1. Picnic Table						
2. Fireplace						
3. Toilet						
4. Boat Ramp						
5. Swimming Beach						
6. Firewood						
7. Drinking Water						
8. Garbage Cans						
9. Automobile Parking						
10. Site for Camping Vehicle or Tent						
11. Other -- please explain:						

5. Are there any types of outdoor recreation activities or facilities you would like at this recreation area which are not presently available?

(_) Yes (_) No

IF YES, what activities or facilities should be provided at this area?

____

6. Please evaluate environmental factors you found in this recreation area.

Environmental Factors	Condition of Environmental Factors				
	Excellent	Good	Average	Poor	Very Poor
1. Sufficient privacy					
2. Sufficient space					
3. Neat & clean, well maintained					
4. Natural beauty of area					
5. Accessibility to this area					
6. Convenience of facilities					
7. Other -- please explain:					

7. Please check how often you or other members of your party engaged in each of the activities listed below while based at this recreation area. (If no one in your party engaged in an activity while at this recreation area, please leave that line blank.)

Recreation Activities	Frequency		
	1 Time	2 to 4 Times	5 Times or More
1. Bicycling			
2. Motor Bike Riding			
3. Boating (with motor)			
4. Camping -- Count each day at site as one time			
5. Driving for pleasure			
6. Back Country Touring -- 4-wheel drive etc.			
7. Fishing			
8. Hiking			
9. Mountain Climbing			
10. Picnicking			
11. Playing Outdoor Games			
12. Resting and Relaxing			
13. Rock Hounding			
14. Sightseeing			
15. Swimming			
16. Walking for Pleasure			
17. Water Skiing			
18. Other Pursuits (nature study, etc.) Please indicate:			

8. If you or others in your party engaged in any of the above activities, while based at this area, please write the number of the activity that was enjoyed most, second and third choices.

(_____) First preference (Activity Enjoyed Most)

(_____) Second preference

(_____) Third preference

9. Including yourself, please write the number of adults, teenagers, and preteens in your group.

______ Number of Adults

______ Number of Teenagers

______ Number of Preteens

10. Please write the name of your home state, county, and city or town.

______ State

______ County

______ City or Town

11. If you are interested in outdoor recreation, what geographic areas in Montana do you enjoy most or what areas would you like to visit? (Examples include: Flathead Lake, Lower Yellowstone River, etc.)

12. What is your opinion of outdoor recreation in Montana? Please tell us what you consider being done well or badly and especially what improvements not previously indicated you believe are needed.

Thank you for your assistance in planning Montana's future outdoor recreation opportunities. Please return the questionnaire in the enclosed postage-paid envelope to Recreation and Parks Division, Montana Fish and Game Department, Helena, Montana 59601.

MONTANA RESIDENT RECREATION SURVEY

Instructions: Most of the following questions can be answered by checking a statement that most accurately describes your thoughts about a question. Your answers are confidential. Please return your completed questionnaire in the enclosed postage-paid envelope. Thank you for your time and effort.

1. Please indicate your present marital status.

(_) Married (_) Single (never married, divorced, separated, or widowed)
1 2

2. Please indicate your sex. (_) Male (_) Female
1 2

3. Please check the box that includes your age.

1(_) Under 15 3(_) 25 to 34 5(_) 45 to 64
2(_) 15 to 24 4(_) 35 to 44 6(_) 65 years or over

4. Please check one of the following. Are you the:

1(_) head of the household 3(_) son or daughter
2(_) married to the head of the household 4(_) other: ____________

5. Including yourself, how many persons live in your household?

(_) 1 (_) 2 (_) 3 (_) 4 (_) 5 (_) 6 or more persons
1 2 3 4 5 6

6. Are you employed? (_) Yes (_) No, not employed
1 2

7. Please check the number of weeks vacation you expect to have during 1972.

1(_) No vacation in 1972 3(_) About one week 5(_) About three weeks
2(_) Less than one week 4(_) About two weeks 6(_) Four weeks or more

8. Please check the box showing the season when you took (or plan to take) all or most of your vacation during 1972.

1(_) Will take no vacation during 1972
2(_) Spring 3(_) Summer 4(_) Fall 5(_) Winter

9. How much time during a typical week of this past month did you have available for recreation?

1(_) No time for recreation 4(_) About two days each week
2(_) About half a day each week 5(_) Over two days each week
3(_) About one whole day each week

10. A year from now, do you expect to have:

1(_) considerably more free time for recreation 3(_) about the same amount of time
2(_) a little more free time 4(_) a little less free time
5(_) considerably less free time

11. Please evaluate your general health. Do you consider yourself:

1(_) very healthy and physically able to engage in all types of outdoor activities
2(_) reasonably healthy and strong but limited in ability to engage in some types of outdoor activities
3(_) physically able to participate only in less strenuous outdoor activities
4(_) sick or disabled and unable to participate in outdoor activities

12. Several groups of leisure-time activities are listed below. Please check any group if you engaged in any of the activities listed in it during the past month.

(_) Indoor Spectator Activities -- Examples include television, radio, records, reading, concerts, plays, movies, or indoor sports or games.

(_) Social Activities -- Examples include social club or fraternal meetings, church, entertaining friends or being entertained by them.

(_) Indoor Play Activities -- Examples include indoor games such as cards, bowling, square dancing, etc., or indoor sports or games such as basketball, volley ball, or swimming.

(_) Self-Improvement Activities -- Examples include attending classes or school, participating in health and fitness programs.

(_) Home-Related Activities -- Examples include gardening and yardwork, home improvements and repairs, shop work, sewing, making things.

(_) Outdoor Recreation Activities -- Examples include fishing, hunting, boating, swimming, walking, bicycling, horseback riding, golfing, camping, picnicking, sightseeing, skiing, driving, or outdoor spectator activities.

13. Please rank the activities you have checked in the previous question in terms of which ones you enjoyed the most during this past month, (Write in number 1 for your first choice, number 2 for your second, and number 3 for your third choice.)

(__) Indoor Spectator Activities
(__) Social Activities
(__) Indoor Play Activities
(__) Self-Improvement Activities
(__) Home-Related Activities
(__) Outdoor Recreation Activities

14. Please check how often you engaged in each of the activities listed below during the past month. (If you did not engage in an activity, please leave that line blank.)

Recreation Activities	Frequency		
	1 TIME	2 to 4 TIMES	5 TIMES OR MORE
1 Bicycling			
2 Motor Bike Riding			
3 Boating (with motor)			
4 Driving for Pleasure			
5 Back Country Touring (4-wheel drive, etc.)			
6 Fishing			
7 Horseback Riding			
8 Hunting			
9 Ice Skating			
10 Picnicking			
11 Playing Outdoor Games			
12 Sightseeing			
13 Snow Skiing			
14 Snowmobile Riding			
15 Tobogganing or Sledding			
16 Walking for Pleasure			
17 Other -- Please indicate Activity:			

15. If you engaged in any of the above activities during the past month, please write the numbers of the one that you liked best, next best, and third best.

(__) First Preference (liked the best)
(__) Second Preference
(__) Third Preference

16. IF YOU HAVE CHILDREN LIVING AT HOME:

a. Please write the numbers of the activities listed in question 14 (above) that your children participated in most frequently during the past month.

(__) Most Frequently

(__) Second Most Frequently

(__) Third Most Frequently

b. If there were any outdoor recreation activities your children would have enjoyed but that were not available where you live, please write the names of these activities:

____

____

17. Of the following outdoor activities, please check the ones which you would like to spend more time, the same amount of time, or less time on within the next year. (If you are not interested in a type of activity, leave that line blank.)

	Recreation Activities	Would like to spend:		
		MORE TIME	SAME AMOUNT	LESS TIME
1	Bicycling			
2	Motor Bike Riding			
3	Boating (with motor)			
4	Driving for Pleasure			
5	Back Country Touring (4-wheel drive, etc.)			
6	Fishing			
7	Horseback Riding			
8	Hunting			
9	Ice Skating			
10	Picnicking			
11	Playing Outdoor Games			
12	Sightseeing			
13	Snow Skiing			
14	Snowmobile Riding			
15	Tobogganing or Sledding			
16	Walking for Pleasure			
17	Other -- Please indicate activity:			

18. If you are interested in outdoor recreation, what geographic areas in Montana do you enjoy most or what areas would you like to visit? (Examples include: Flathead Lake, Lower Yellowstone River, etc.)

____

____

19. What improvements would you like made in the environment and facilities of your city or town parks?

____

____

____

20. Several types of outdoor recreation areas are listed below. If you are interested in outdoor recreation, please read the following descriptions. Then, **write the numbers** of the one that provides you with the greatest amount of enjoyment and that you like the best, next best, and your third preference.

1-- Intensively Developed Recreation Areas -- Examples include sites of intensive development found in city parks such as swimming pools, tennis courts, playfields, picnic areas, etc.

2-- General Outdoor Recreation Areas -- Examples are rest and recreation areas where the natural environment is an important part of the recreation experience, such as state parks and forest campgrounds with developed camping, picnicking, boating facilities, etc.

3-- Natural Undeveloped Environment Areas -- The natural environment is largely undeveloped but various types of recreation such as camping, fishing, or picnicking can take place.

4-- Outstanding Natural Areas -- These areas have outstanding natural features; examples would include the Lewis and Clark Caverns, Glacier and Yellowstone Parks, etc.

5-- Primitive Areas -- These areas are roadless and are characterized by natural wild conditions; there are no developments to be found in such areas.

6-- Historic and Cultural Sites -- Places which are of historical significance in Montana are included in this group; for example, Custer Battlefield, ghost towns, etc.

(__) First Preference (The number of the above area liked best)

(__) Second Preference

(__) Third Preference

21. If there are any members of your household, including yourself, who have special outdoor recreational needs because of disabilities or handicaps, would you please write in the space below what these needs are.

____

____

____

____

____

22. What is your opinion of outdoor recreation in Montana? Please tell us what you consider being done well or badly, and what improvements you believe are needed.

____

____

____

____

____

Thank you for your assistance in planning Montana's future outdoor recreation opportunities. Please return this questionnaire in the enclosed postage-paid envelope addressed to Recreation and Parks Division, Montana Fish and Game Department, Helena, Montana 59601.

THE PLANNING REGIONS

There are 12 official state planning regions for the State of Montana. Accordingly, the material has been compiled on that basis and is presented in the section following. The official planning regions are based on the concept of centers of economic growth and they are formed by county building blocks. There is no stated number of counties necessary for a region, consequently there is considerable variation in the size and in the population.

From the standpoint of recreational use, there is some difficulty with given planning regions. Several, notably region 12 and region 9, are elongated and thus do not accurately reflect the recreational patterns that have evolved. Other regions, however, are admirably suited to characteristics of recreational use pattern, such as the central and eastern regions of the state.

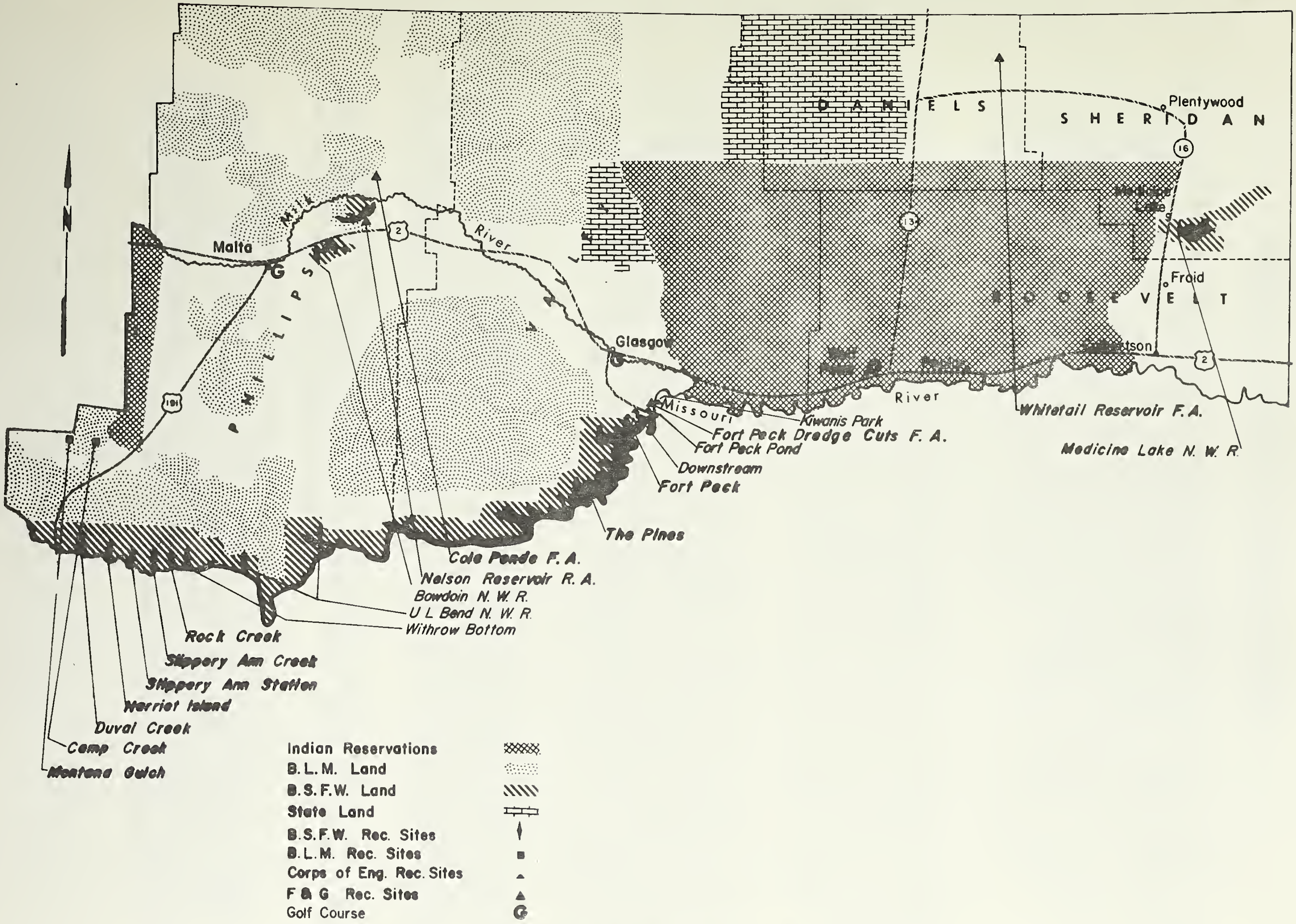
Use of the regions has greatly facilitated organizing the voluminous material in the plan. The planning regions are particularly valuable in terms of identification of major problems, regardless of the fact that users originate in various regions.

It is anticipated that each of the official planning regions will have an official local governmental planning unit comparable to what has been done in several nearby states. Planning region 10 has made considerable progress in establishing this type of area planning organization.

For each of the planning regions, the major categories of information are as follows: Geographic, Population and Historic Characteristics; Characteristics of Recreational Use; Major Recreational Resources; and the accompanying graphics. Supplementing this is the summary material from the local governmental survey.

Special Note: Attention is called to the page numbering system for the planning regions. Each region begins again with page number one rather than continuing with a consecutive number from the previous region. This is done to facilitate the addition of pages of information to a given region without disrupting the entire numerical sequence. With continual revision of the material anticipated, this will expedite its incorporation.

Material to be incorporated shortly will consist of results of the urban inventory and study, the study of private enterprise in outdoor recreation, plus revision of inventories.


N
Malta
Milk River
P H I L L I P S
V A L L E Y
Glasgow
D A N I E L S
S H E R I D A N
Plentywood
R O O S E V E L T
Froid
Medicine Lake
Culbertson
Missouri River
2
13
16
191
Kiwanis Park
Fort Peck Dredge Cuts F. A.
Fort Peck Pond
Downstream
Fort Peck
The Pines
Whitetail Reservoir F. A.
Medicine Lake N. W. R.
Cole Ponds F. A.
Nelson Reservoir R. A.
Bowdoin N. W. R.
U L Bend N. W. R.
Withrow Bottom
Rock Creek
Slippery Ann Creek
Slippery Ann Station
Herriot Island
Duval Creek
Camp Creek
Montana Gulch
Indian Reservations
B.L.M. Land
B.S.F.W. Land
State Land
B.S.F.W. Rec. Sites
B.L.M. Rec. Sites
Corps of Eng. Rec. Sites
F & G Rec. Sites
Golf Course
G

PLANNING REGION 1

SUMMARY OF MAJOR RECREATION PROBLEMS

One of the more significant characteristics of the region is the imbalance in the location of the major recreation resources relative to the areas with the greater concentrations of population. Fort Peck Reservoir, the outstanding resource, is not conveniently accessible to most residents, both in terms of distance and in terms of inadequate roads. The potential of the reservoir is thus not fully utilized. While there are attractive resources in the region, there are extensive areas generally lacking in natural environment areas with some recreation potential.

There is a lack of developed recreation areas, particularly for camping and picnicking, despite the tendency towards the dispersed use of natural areas independent of facilities, for these activities. Weather conditions and the lack of vegetation in much of the region require more facility development at recreation areas in order to insure comfort and a more desirable experience. Rest areas on major and minor travel routes are generally lacking.

The lack of developed areas near cities and towns creates a special problem for the less mobile and the disadvantaged residents. While the extensive areas of farm and ranch lands do not restrict recreation activity to the extent they would in densely settled areas, there is a need for designated areas for most activities, including hunting and fishing. Recreation access to the Missouri and also the Milk Rivers is a significant need.

Despite the size of Fort Peck Reservoir, it does not fulfill the need for smaller lakes or ponds suitable for boating or fishing and which are preferably located closer to home. There is a potential for several of these smaller reservoirs on the smaller streams and they would serve a definite recreation need in the local communities.

There are a number of smaller stock ponds which provide some fishing. Those that may be available to the public should be mapped and designated as such.

Waterfowl hunting areas not easily accessible in some sections and efforts must be made to obtain several of these sites. There is a need to acquire more public hunting areas, particularly in the river bottom lands along the Milk River and the Lower Missouri River below Fort Peck. Areas for goose hunting in the Malta area would be desirable acquisitions.

There must be improved access to BLM lands and there is a need to identify vehicle access roads and those areas where off-road travel by tracked or wheeled vehicles is restricted. The problem is critical in the Missouri Breaks areas and along Frenchman's Creek. There is a need to improve road access to key game areas for all weather use.

Despite the referenced problems, the region offers much in recreation. The space, the freedom and the unique attraction of the prairie landscapes need only acknowledgement and recognition to achieve their potential.

REGION 1

GEOGRAPHIC, POPULATION AND HISTORIC CHARACTERISTICS

Planning Region One, situated in the northeast corner of the state, is located on the fringes of the Great Plains that dominate the vast mid-continent portion of the United States. The western portion is dominated by the grazing lands and remnants of the open prairie, while the eastern portion is characterized more by the rolling farmlands, a transition zone to the great wheatlands to the east. Once the province of endless bison herds; now prosperous farms dot the landscape.

Glaciation has smoothed the land surface, grinding off the hills and sharp edges, filling in the valleys, leaving many potholes and swales with no outlets and many streams that seem to wander aimlessly. The natural vegetation in this rolling prairie country consists almost entirely of undifferentiated grassland with some sagebrush and saltbrush growing in the western portion. Deciduous trees and shrubs line the stream flood plains and some ponderosa pine inhabit the southwestern portion of the region.

The Missouri River and Fort Peck Reservoir border the region on the south. The Milk River cuts diagonally across the region to the southeast and feeds Nelson Reservoir, a popular recreation area in Phillips County. Water resources in the region for recreation are rather limited.

This region's climate resembles that of other eastern Montana areas - low winter temperatures and wide temperature fluctuations from summer to winter. Extremes vary from minus 40° to 100° or more in July and August. Rainfall averages about 15 inches annually.

According to the 1970 official census, 36,084 people live in the region. County totals follow:

REGION POPULATION DISTRIBUTION

COUNTY	PERSONS
Daniels	3,083
Phillips	5,386
Roosevelt	10,365
Sheridan	5,779
Valley	11,471
Region Total	36,084

About half the regional population lives in the Milk River Valley. Approximately half is rather evenly scattered throughout the eastern half of the region. Urban dwellers total 7,795 or 22% of the 1970 population. Glasgow, population 4,700, is the largest regional town. Wolf Point, population 3,095, plentywood, population 2,381 and Malta, population 2,195 are other major towns in the region.

The 1970 census shows a 17.9% decline from the 1960 population in Daniels County, a 10.6% decline in Phillips County, an 11.6% decline in Roosevelt County, 2 10.5% decline in Sheridan County and a 32.8% drop in Valley County. Abandonment of the Glasgow Air Force Base in the late 1960's undoubtedly caused most of the sharp Valley County population decline.

American Indians make up 12.2% of the 1970 regional population. Roosevelt County's population is 30% American Indian and Valley County's pupulation is 8.5% Indian (70.7% and 22.1% of the region's total Indian populace respectively). Other minority races make up less than .8% of the 1970 total.

Region 1 is served by rail and air transportation with a major airport at Glasgow and major highways with U. S. Highway 2 traversing the region east and west. Several major state highways also serve the region.

The economy is primarily agricultural with farming probably more prevalent than in other eastern Montana areas. Wholesale-retail trade is important in the towns, and Glasgow has some small manufacturing businesses.

Public lands account for approximately 29.3% of all land in the region. The following table shows the percentages and square mile totals of all public land in each county.

PUBLIC LAND IN REGION 1 *

County	Percentage	Square Miles
Daniels	24.1	347
Phillips	40.0	2,120
Roosevelt	1.7	40
Sheridan	6.1	105
Valley	40.1	2,040
		4,652

* Does not include local government land.

This public land is administered as follows:

PUBLIC LAND ADMINISTRATION REGION 1

Federal Agencies	Land (Acres)
Bureau of Land Management	2,144,078
U.S. Air Force	65,372
U.S. Army	54,925
Bureau of Sport Fisheries & Wildlife	23,254
International Boundary	158
Total	2,287,787
State Agencies	
Dept. of State Lands (not including State Forest Land	683,600
Montana Fish and Game Dept.	2,789
Total	686,389
Indian Lands	
Fort Peck Indian Reservation	1,334,000
Fort Belknap Indian Reservation	150,000
Total	1,484,000
Local	
Community Parks (Wolf Point, Malta)	32

Regional Points of Interest

The C. M. Russell National Wildlife Range
Over a million acres of range and forest land bordering Fort Peck Reservoir is available for public recreation. Fishing, picnicking, camping, wildlife study and hunting in season are some of the major activities the recreationist may engage in. Deer, antelope, mountain sheep, elk and upland game birds are a few of the species which live here.

Fort Peck Dam & Reservoir
The world's largest earth fill dam backs up water for 190 miles creating 1600 miles of shoreline. The Army Corps of Engineers administers two major Region 1 water access areas: The Pines and at Fort Peck Dam. Swimming, fishing, boating and other water sports are available.

Bowdoin National Wildlife Refuge
Visitors can see various species of waterfowl, upland game birds, antelope, deer and elk.

Fort Peck Indian Reservation
The annual Indian Days Oil Discovery Celebration is held the third week each August. People living on the reservation belong to the Assiniboine and Sioux tribes.

Scobey
This town dating back to the early 1900's features a homestead shack, shops, stores and antique farm equipment from the early period.

Historic Sites

The Fort Peck Agency was established in its present location at Poplar in 1877. It replaced the Fort Peck trading post as the government headquarters for dealing with the recently surrendered Sioux and with the friendly Assiniboine. Its significance lies in its former strategic location and the fact that it was the site of the U. S. Government's early attempt at placing friendly and hostile tribes together on the same reservation to keep each other in check.

Fort Union was the principle Upper Missouri fur trading post and afforded the northern plains Indians extended contact with the whites. Astor's American Fur Company built the fort in 1828 in an attempt to capture the Missouri River and Rock Mountain area trade. Little remains of the extensive fort which was dismantled in 1866 by the Army.

Below is a summary chart listing the major historic sites in the region.

HISTORIC SITES IN REGION 1

Historic Site	County (s)	Significant Dates	Significance
Scobey	Daniels	early 1900's	Agriculture
Ft. Andrew	Phillips	1862	Commerce
Ft. Hawley	Phillips	1866	Commerce
Landusky	Phillips	1880's	Industry
Lookout Cave	Phillips	late Prehistoric	Prehistoric-aborig
St. Paul's Mission	Phillips	1886	Historic-aborigina
Zortman Historic Dist.	Phillips	1880's	Industry
Disaster Bend	Roosevelt	1861	Transportation
Ft. Jackson	Roosevelt	1833	Commerce
Ft. Kipp	Roosevelt	1860	Commerce
Ft. Peck Agency (NR)	Roosevelt	1877	Historic-aborig.
Ft. Poplar	Roosevelt	1861	Commerce
Ft. Stewart	Roosevelt	1855	Commerce
Ft. Union Trading Post (NR-NHL)	Roosevelt	1828	Commerce
Plentywood	Sheridan	1918	Socail
Ft. Charles	Valley	1861	Commerce
Ft. Dauphin	Valley	1860	Commerce
Ft. Galpin	Valley	1862	Commerce
Old Ft. Peck Agency & Trading Post	Valley	1867	Historic-aborig.

NR - Site is listed on the National Register
NHL - Site is a National Historic Landmark

CHARACTERISTICS OF RECREATION USE

Leisure Time in Region 1

Surveys indicate that over a year's period of time more Montana residents in Region 1 engaged in indoor spectator activities than any other leisure time activities.

Home related activities which included gardening, shop work, etc. were the scond most prevalent activities for residents of Region 1. Outdoor recreation activities were third most popular throughout the year and reached a peak at various times throughout the year. Outdoor recreation activities are not first in Region 1 although they are a relatively high priority.

The Characteristics and Viewpoints of the Park User in Region 1

Montana residents were by far the greatest users of facilities in Region 1. They accounted for 87.5% of all those recreationists surveyed in Region 1. 32% of the Montana residents using facilities in Region 1 came from outside the region. 55.5% came from within the region with Valley County counting for 22% and Roosevelt County accounting for 22%. This indicates that a fair number of users of the facilities in Region 1 originate from outside the region. Conversely most of the recreationists originating in Region 1 recreate in Region 1. The most prevelent party size was five persons. Undoubtedly most of the recreation occurred at the Fort Peck Reservoir. Participation was about equal in day use recreation and overnight camping. Recreation sites were chosen in Region 1 most frequently because they were near a desired activity and second most frequently because the sites were near home or because of the natural beauty near the site.

Facility conditions were slightly below state averages while environmental factors were generally on a par with state averages or slightly above, except for one factor. Convenient access to areas was that one factor which rated below the state average creating a need for better roads etc. into the various areas. 38% of those surveyed indicated the need for additional activities or facilities at selected parks or recreation areas in Region 1.

Of those recreationists surveyed in Region 1, resting and relaxing, camping, and picnicking were the three most popular activities engaged in. Of those activities recreationists said they preferred most, camping was first, fishing was second and boating was third.

Implications

1. Few out-of-staters recreated in this region. Many were probably transient recreationists or campers who were using the Fort Peck recreation facilities.

2. A need for both day use areas near population centers and overnight accommodations for more lengthy stays were indicated on the survey.

3. Areas offering a variety of recreation activities should be provided. A majority of these areas should be located close to population centers.

4. Better access into present recreation facilities should be provided. This was an indicated need.

5. Well maintained recreation facilities offering a variety of activities including passive activities such as picnicking and facilities for resting and relaxing should be provided near urban areas.

6. Fishing and boating should also receive greater attention as these activities were indicated as highly preferred by the users.

The Montana Resident

Characteristics of the resident respondents can be found in the Appendix. These data include the respondents marital status, sex, age, household status, employment, vacation allowance, available time and general health.

Tables following indicate the frequency of participation in various activities by those surveyed and is a measure of their popularity in Region 1.

An indication of preferences was obtained and the perfect correlation did not exist between participation and preference. Driving for pleasure ranked first both in participation and preference. Fishing was preferred second and hunting third, a slight increase over their actual participation. Walking for pleasure and sightseeing were among the top five activities preferred by residents of Region 1.

Regarding water-oriented activities, fishing considerably outweighs other activities and reaches a seasonal peak in the warm months. Snowmobiling is more popular than other winter activities. For activities which involve traveling with or without a vehicle, walking for pleasure is by far the most popular, and peaks in the spring and late summer. Only in the fall does hunting exceed walking for pleasure in popularity in Region 1. Sightseeing is the most popular activity of those generally concentrated in one area and has a slight edge on picnicking and playing outdoor games, with most activity in spring and in the fall. Driving for pleasure outweighs by far other activities which involve traveling with a vehicle and peaks at various times throughout the year. (for a detailed graphic account see Appendix.)

Children in Region 1 participated most frequently in bicycling, next in driving for pleasure (with an adult), hunting, and then playing outdoor games and swimming.

For given classification of recreation resources, Region 1 residents stated they preferred general outdoor recreation areas first. These areas include state parks and recreation areas, forest campgrounds and other sites with developed picnicking, boating or camping facilities. Natural undeveloped environment areas where selected activities may take place but little development is evident were preferred second. Outstanding natural areas such as Glacier or Yellowstone National Park were third most popular. (see Appendix for further details.)

Implications

1. Facilities to allow more pleasurable driving should be available to Region 1 residents because of the high amount of driving for pleasure engaged in and preferred.

2. Fishing, hunting, walking for pleasure, sightseeing and snowmobiling are other activities which should be planned for.

3. Children's activities which should receive increased attention are bicycling, playing outdoor games, and swimming.

4. Residents of Region 1 desire first, outdoor recreation that centers around developed facilities in parks, wooded areas, campgrounds, etc. with a secondary interest in natural areas with few facilities. Outstanding natural areas are also desired but these are not prominent in the region.

Problems and potentials in Recreation for Region 1

The Fort Peck Reservoir must be considered as the primary recreation resource for Region 1. A wide range of recreation opportunity is available but water based activities are the most popular. The Army Corps of Engineers is presently providing recreation at a few selected areas near the reservoir. Much of their funding has gone into improvement and construction of roads to provide more and better access to the reservoir. This action also enhances driving for pleasure a major recreation activity not only in Region 1 but statewide. Access roads are a high priority with the Corps and it appears that future efforts will continue to be made on road access and also on improvement of the sites already in existence rather than on increased development of new sites. More picnic sites will be developed and also trees will be planted to enhance the present facilities. There are plans for future development at Timber Creek and also for a modern pool in the Fort Peck city area. The Corps has also given increased attention to urban needs by providing playground equipment, ball parks and horseshoe courts to the area recreation facilities.

To facilitate driving the Corps has also initiated a signing program which will use symbols rather than words.

Many recreation activities are done in conjunction with another walking for pleasure is one of these. Many areas along the Fort Peck Reservoir are suitable for walking and trails would be desirable. Most walking for pleasure would probably be done near a particular camping or recreation area.

Fishing was one of the most preferred recreation activities in Region 1 and fishing participation was also high. The Fort Peck Reservoir offers practically unlimited fishing opportunity although the fluctuation of the reservoir is a detriment to some species. Fishing is often done in conjunction with boating and boating has also unlimited opportunities because of the vast size of the water body. High winds and rough water limit the use of the reservoir at times, however, one opportunity is also available for exploration by boat as well as hunting and sightseeing while utilizing a boat. The Army Corps of Engineers gives easements for private developments and encourages this type of action. One such facility is near Fort Peck. Longer term easements and good financial backing are requisites for such development by the private sector.

Most boaters using Fort Peck Reservoir are from within a fifty mile radius of the area. Only about 5% of all out-of-state visitors have a boat along while traveling. Boating appears to be increasing faster than other water activities in the Fort Peck region.

Picnicking, although not as popular as in some other regions, is still an important activity in Region 1. It is usually done in conjunction with other recreation activities. Future plans for picnic sites include the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife development at the U. L. Bend area. Two BLM sites in the Little Rockies at Camp Creek in Montana Gulch will probably be expanded in picnic facilities undoubtedly would be included as part of the expansion. Many persons from the Glasgow area utilize Army Corps picnic sites, however, it appears that many of these sites are often used to capacity.

Bicycling is mostly confined to town and village areas and to some highways such as US 2. Most roads in the area are gravel and are not suited to biking.

Hunting, another activity which has great potential on the public land surrounding Fort Peck Reservoir, was rated very high in Region 1. The public lands available for hunting will undoubtedly receive increased use in the future.

Winter sports facilities should be developed to accommodate such things as skating and perhaps cross country skiing. At the present Fort Peck Reservoir is not the most desirable area in the winter for skating. Glasgow does have a good winter program for winter sports. The lack of snow and occasional warming periods are limiting factors.

Camping is a very popular activity in the Fort Peck area and in other areas of Region 1. Much of the present camp equipment does not require developed sites and consequently many people do not wish to go into developed sites. There is a problem of eventual destruction of the undeveloped sites by overuse or misuse. Trash left at undeveloped sites and erosion from misuse are two of the more significant problems. One possible solution for this over use of some undeveloped areas is periodic closure with provision of new camping areas elsewhere, in effect a rotation system to allow overused sites to rehabilitate themselves. This system would require diligent enforcement. It would appear that camping and some other activities could be managed by this type of procedure. More funding would be needed by management to enable better enforcement procedures, but perhaps the campers might contribute to some extent by being charged for such use.

Inventory of Facilities

Federal and State Recreation Facilities

In Region 1, the Montana Fish and Game Department, the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, the Army Corps of Engineers and the Bureau of Land Management all provide major public recreation facilities. Major areas with selected facilities are summarized below:

FEDERAL AND STATE RECREATION AREAS - REGION 1

Federal	Picnic Units	Camping Units	Swimming Area Available	Fishing Access Available	Boat Ramp Available
Bureau of Land Management					
Camp Creek	6	9	0	0	0
Montana Gulch	5	5	0	0	0
Total	11	14	0	0	0

Bureau of Sport Fisheries & Wildlife					
Duval Creek	0	2	0	X	0
Harriett Island	0	2	0	X	0
Slippery Ann Station	0	16	0	X	0
Slippery Ann Creek	0	3	0	X	0
Rock Creek	5	5	0	X	X
Withrow Bottom	2	3	0	X	0
U. L. Bend Sites	10	10	X	X	X
Bowdoin National Wildlife Refuge	5	0	0	X	0
Medicine Lake National Wildlife Refuge	10	0	0	X	X
Total	32	41	1	9	3
Army Corps of Engineers					
The Pines	5	4	0	X	X
Fort Peck	5	75	X	X	X
Down Stream	5	31	X	X	X
Fort Peck Pond	10	0	0	0	0
Kiwanis Park	10	0	X	X	X
Total	35	110	3	4	3
State					
Montana Fish and Game Department					
Nelson SRA	5	10	X	X	X
Cole Ponds FAS	3	0	0	X	0
Fort Peck Dredge Cuts FAS	1	0	0	X	X
Whitetail Res. FAS	4	0	0	X	0
Total	13	10	1	4	2
Total Selected Facilities Region 1	91	175	5	17	8

MAJOR RECREATION RESOURCES

FORT PECK RESERVOIR

Fort Peck Reservoir and its environs are a significant resource in the state of Montana and in the states adjoining as well. The 250 square miles of water, its 1500 miles of shoreline and the surrounding national wildlife range, together with the adjoining ranch and rangelands left in a largely natural state all combine to provide the area with a unique appeal. This expanse of water and the sparsely inhabited lands give the area the qualities of spaciousness, isolation and inaccessibility. As other areas become progressively more crowded it can be anticipated that resources of this kind will have increasing appeal. Already well used in the more developed areas near the dam proper, the area can be expected to undergo visitation from larger segments of the population as it becomes better known.

The Fort Peck area's ties with history are still apparent. Much of the area remains characteristically similar to the way it was when the explorers Lewis and Clark first saw this reach of the river in 1805.

The area adjoining the reservoir is the locale of outstanding significance in geologic and archeologic history which is only recently becoming known. Several universities send teams of researchers to the area each summer to undertake what is still the preliminary study of a vast resource in this field. As explorations continue, the area promises to be of exceptional interest to both the lay public and the scientists as well.

It is a region of limited rainfall and sparse vegetation; therefore, the ground surfaces are easily susceptible to damage from over use. While the present dispersed use has not created significant problems, it will be a factor in planning for heavier use in the future.

The natural conditions which provide this resource with its individual qualities are at the same time those which have limited the development of the area and its consequent use. Other than the region of the damsite and the town of Fort Peck, the reservoir is accessible at only a few areas. Access roads are graveled and several areas have only gumbo surfaced trails which are virtually unusable in periods of rainy weather. The problem of adequate roads is a key factor in the development of the area for recreational use.

Recreational Development

The Corps of Engineers, in cooperation with other federal and state agencies provides modern camping and picnic facilities at various locations around the reservoir. Six of these areas are operated by the Corps and three are operated by the Montana Fish and Game Department. Corp plans for the period of the next three to five years call for the continued improvement and enlargement of existing areas before undertaking development at any additional sites. At this time most of the facilities are concentrated at the site of the dam and the project headquarters with others located at strategic points around the reservoir. Following is a resume of the master plan for the respective areas:

Downstream Public Use Area (adjacent to the dam structure)

The clear water and the relatively protected location provide for excellent fishing and boating and for related developments for camping and picnicking. The area is heavily used by residents of the region. Long range plans call for the addition of sizable areas for camping, particularly for trailer and vehicular camping units, plus additional picnicking space. More boat launching ramps and boat piers and an overlook near the boating area are planned. The area capitalizes upon the nearby community of Fort Peck for services and concessions, and the easy access by road enhances the area also. The area encompasses a total of 1,230 acres.

Present facilities include picnic tables, picnic shelters, modern restrooms with showers and laundry, camping areas , swimming area, boat docks, fishing access and a hiking area. The area is served by a concession facility with cafe and store and a museum is nearby. The area is served by electricity and a children's playground has been installed.

Fort Peck Public Use Area

The area is situated close to the project headquarters and is located several miles southwesterly of there. The area encompasses 350 acres and provides the following facilities: picnic tables and shelters, camping areas, modern restrooms with showers, boat ramp, docks and hiking area. The area is also served by a concession with cafe and store. Approximately 150 cabin sites are situated here.

Long range plans call only for the continued enhancement of the area including fencing and the planting of numerous trees in variety.

Dredge Cuts Area

The area is located near the dam and northerly of the larger Fort Peck Recreation Site. It encompasses about 400 acres and provides access to trout fishing. Camping with modern restrooms is available as are picnicking facilities including shelters. A boat dock and ramp are provided and a swimming area.

Several small lakes or ponds provide fishing for warm water species including paddlefish, water skiing and in the winter serve as excellent skating ponds.

Long range plans call for enhancement rather than enlargement of the facilities.

One more pond has been isolated to be managed for trout fishing and Northern Pike rearing ponds are being developed.

The Pines Public Area

The area is one of few with extensive tree cover and this consists of pines and juniper. The Journals of Lewis and Clark note this area due to the presence of the trees. The area is extensive, covering 755 acres.

The area provides for picnicking including shelters, and camping, although no modern sanitary facilities are available. A large area for primitive type camping is planned as well as more developed camping. Fishing access is generous due to the extensive shoreline of this promontory. A boat dock is situated here and there are sites for approximately 40 cabins. The picnic area is unique in that it is located at the tip of the peninsula which extends for a considerable distance out into the lake.

In addition to these referenced areas, there are several located on the south shore which are available to the visitor from this region provided they have boat access across the lake. Areas on the south shore include Devils Creek, Hell Creek State Recreation Area and Rock Creek State Recreation Area, the latter two of which are administered by the Department of Fish and Game.

Recommendations

Development at Fort Peck Reservoir should be continued with the objective of making it an attractive weekend type of destination for recreationists from the region. The area should provide for a wide range of activity and should be relatively self-sufficient from the standpoint of furnishing related goods and services. Most recreationists will come from some distance and due to road access problems will be somewhat isolated from sources of utilitarian needs. For many visitors, the reservoir will have greater attraction when they are assured that they need not be completely self-reliant when using the area.

The resources are there for unlimited boating and fishing together with associated camping and picnicking. The opportunity for viewing game and waterfowl species of great variety as well as the more commonly known activity of hunting are there in abundance. The quality of remoteness, of limitless undeveloped areas enhances the foregoing in a way few other resource areas are capable of. Altogether, this experience is one that should be brought to the attention of the public in a positive manner, with appropriate development for the area and the activity.

For the next three to five year period, the development should continue at present locations and be concentrated in the better locations. Capacity of the areas can gradually be increased and the roads improved.

The unique archeologic history of the should should be portrayed and interpreted for the public on site. After suitable protection for the resource is provided, general knowledge of the paleontology and geology could be made generally known to the public throughout the state and region. Interpretive work on the natural history of the area by the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife should be developed to the degree that it will serve as an attraction for residents of the state.

Concessionaire operations at the reservoir are very important due to the isolation and difficult road access. Visitors coming from a distance should be assured of adequate automotive and marina services plus grocery and equipment supplies and perhaps occasional restaurant service.

Considerable effort by public agencies and private groups has been expended on the matter of improved road access in existing recreation sites, plus the construction of roads to areas as yet relatively inaccessible, for example Fourchette Bay. Because of the wildlife aspects and the rather fragile nature of the terrain, it is essential that extensive areas be left roadless and difficult of access. The quality of remoteness and large natural areas is one that should be preserved for future generations to enjoy. Existing roads should be upgraded.

The expanse of open undeveloped lands will in time attract considerable vehicular use, which should be restricted to existing roads. Management plans should carefully regulate this kind of activity for the sake of the resource and for the sake of other visitors who come to enjoy the area. Management plans should provide for adequate and rigid enforcement of the regulations laid down for this type of use.

Designated riding trails should be a feature of the recreation activity at the reservoir area. A system of rotation of areas for this pursuit is recommended in order that the resource is protected and that some variety is afforded the recreationist. Private concessionaires should be encouraged to provide riding horses and stables.

WILDLIFE REFUGES
BUREAU OF SPORT FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE

There are two major refuges and one major game range in the region; namely the CharlesRussell Wildlife Game Range, the Bowdoin and the Medicine Lake Refuges. While the refuges have the primary purpose of providing sanctuary for waterfowl and game of various kinds, there is increasing recreational use of the areas and specific provision is made for this by the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife. Consistent with the primary purpose related to conservation, the public will be accommodated and limited facilities will be provided to protect the resource and facilitate recreational use.

The principal recreation at the refuges consists of the viewing of wildlife, related picnicking, plus the hunting of various game species according to the season. The Bureau recognizes this extensive use of the resource as one of the primary benefits and one that is going to increase significantly during the next several years. Accordingly, plans are being made to enhance the present use and to extend the benefits to broader segments of the population.

The recreational opportunity available at each of the areas is described below:

Medicine Lake Refuge

This refuge consists of 31,457 acres, of which somewhat over 10,000 acres are in water. It is located in the extreme eastern portion of the region, near the town of Medicine Lake and thus is a major recreational attraction of that area.

Recreation use at the refuge is essentially day use in nature consisting of wildlife viewing and limited hunting in season. Picnicking is a use closely related and secondary to the wildlife viewing and is accommodated at the refuge with two shelters, a number of tables, plus necessary sanitary facilities. Provision of such facilities is limited to the appropriate space available, rather than in response to a quantitative demand. Camping is not permitted at the refuge. Rowboats and canoes are permitted on the reservoir and such activity as water skiing is thus specifically forbidden. Fishing is allowed and northern pike and yellow perch are present. It is anticipated that the quality of fishing will be improved significantly over the next years by the Bureau and additional areas should be open for fishing.

Wildlife viewing is accommodated in several ways. A viewing tower is provided at a strategic point and blind for photography are located at given areas. A self-guided trail gives the visitor an overall concept of the resources. Literature is available concerning the identification of species and something of their habits.

Bowdoin Refuge

Bowdoin National Wildlife Refuge is one of the nation's important waterfowl sanctuaries and is situated seven miles east of Malta. The area is on the extensively used flight path of the Central Flyway and a portion of the Pacific Flyway. The refuge was established to provide a suitable habitat for migratory birds, but also contains game animals such as antelope, deer and other smaller species.

The 15,500 acre refuge contains several lakes and marshy areas and is a temporary home for a myriad number of ducks and waterfowl totaling more than 200 species. Upland game birds of the region are numerous at the refuge also.

Refuge roads and trails are open to provide for wildlife observation, photography, sightseeing and hiking. Wildlife viewing is especially interesting in September and October when the largest concentrations of waterfowl occur as the flocks are returning from northern breeding grounds.

Public hunting is permitted under special regulations of the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife and the Montana Fish and Game Department, with hunters being required to check with refuge headquarters.

Overnight camping privileges are granted only to organized youth or tour groups that have special advance permission. A picnic area is available at headquarters although no fires are permitted. A self-guided tour encircling the lakes is a recent addition to the facilities. A viewing tower is available on given occasions for the public.

The area is presently developed to its designated capacity. However, the longer range plans call for increasing the opportunity for tours and for the interpretation of the wildlife and natural history of the area.

Recommendations for the Refuge

The interpretive program should be expanded to accommodate visitors, consistent with the major objective of managing the resources as a sanctuary and breeding ground. The recreation opportunity here should be brought to the attention of the public on a broad basis in order that citizens of the state and visitors might have the opportunity to enjoy this resource.

Missouri River

The section of the river winding eastward from the reservoir is largely in a natural state, although farm lands encroach in many areas. It exemplifies the valley environment before the construction of the dam and, consequently, should have a portion preserved.

While the river is silty due to the confluence with the Milk River, it nevertheless affords some floating with associated fishing. The area is lacking in specified access and egress points for floating. (Relatively clear water is found in the first three miles from the reservoir, providing excellent fishing and fall waterfowl and pheasant hunting.

The valley and its environment provide a contrast to the surrounding country side with its mature woodlands and grassy lowlands.

The land adjoining should be studied with the purpose of obtaining a significant area of natural woodlands with easy access to the river. Sections of the stream suitable for floating should be designated and access points provided.

Milk River

The Milk River and its valley environment are an attractive visual element in the landscape of the region. The river is an important source of irrigation in the valley and stream flow is thereby reduced.

The recreational opportunity is limited because of the steep cut banks of the river over much of its distance, and because of the unusual concentration of mosquitoes during the entire summer season. Efforts are being made to reduce the mosquito problem through changes in the method of handling irrigation waters although a complete solution is some distance in the future.

The river valley should be studied to locate a site for preservation of an area characteristic of the valley in its natural state. A site with a shoreline of suitable gradient for recreation should be chosen.

Charles Russell Game Range

This million acre refuge surrounds the Fort Peck Reservoir and is a unit of the National Wildlife Refuge System. In addition to the hunting at given seasons, it affords unusual opportunity to view the abundant game, waterfowl and upland birds of the region. Wildlife viewing is increasing in popularity and the Bureau is making provisions to accommodate this type use, consistent with the major objective of the management of the resource. Wildlife viewing has surpassed the activity of hunting in terms of volume for a number of areas.

In addition to the wildlife viewing and hunting, camping is permitted at a designated site for a period of two weeks except in special management areas. Vehicular traffic is limited to trail roads only. Roads are very limited in the area.

Nelson Reservoir

This reservoir is a significant recreation area in the vicinity of Malta and at present is adequate to the recreation demand placed upon it. The land area totals 228 acres, while the water surface consists of 4,000 acres.

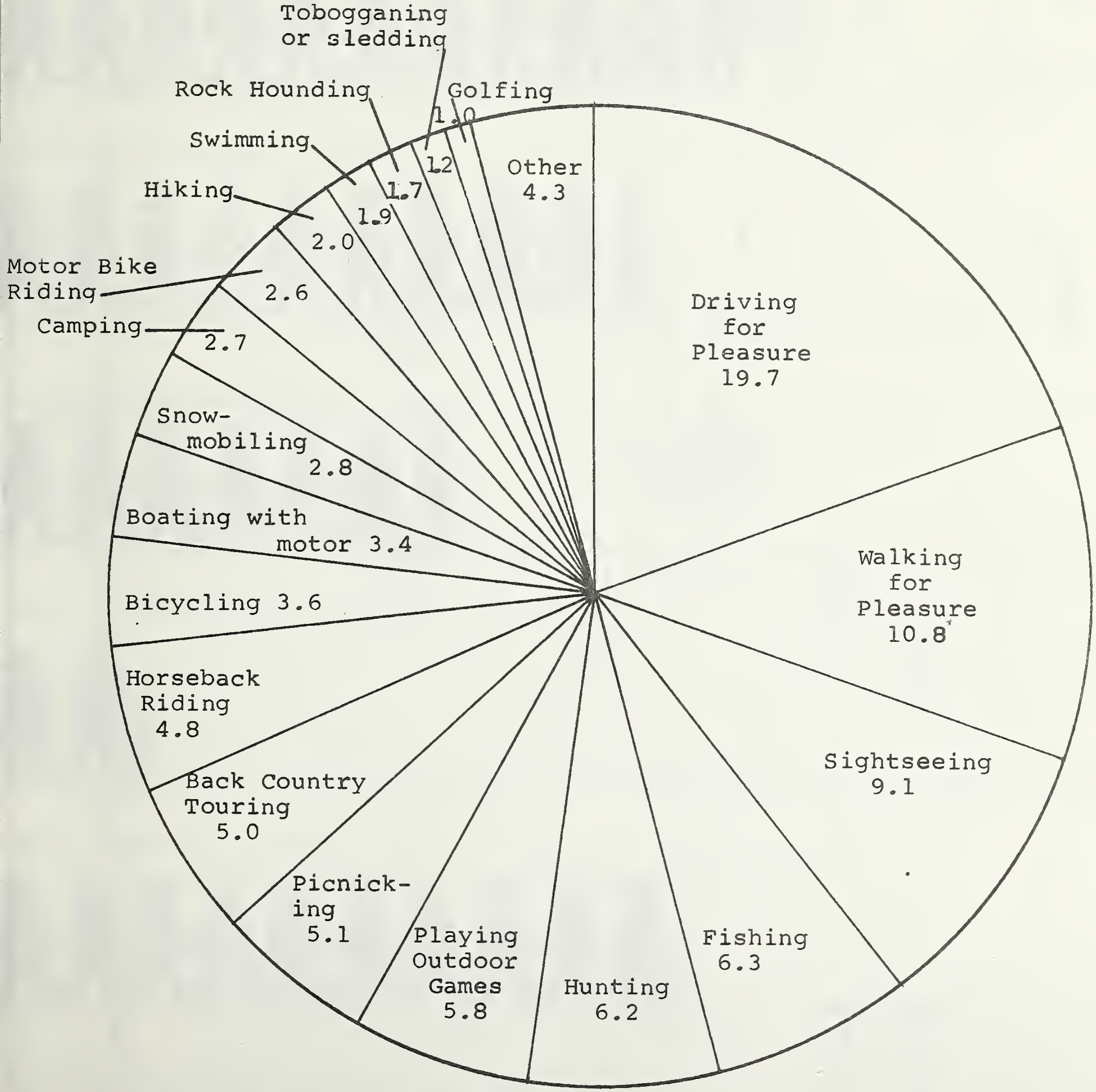
The area is developed by the Department of Fish and Game and this provides 20 camp units, 20 picnic units and a picnic shelter. A boat ramp provides sufficient access at this time. Fishing and boating are prime activities.

For the foreseeable future, the present recreation areas can be expanded to handle increase in use without damage to the basic resource. For the immediate present, the development will be limited to enhancement of the quality of existing facilities. The quality of the recreation site will be improved with the planting of additional trees.

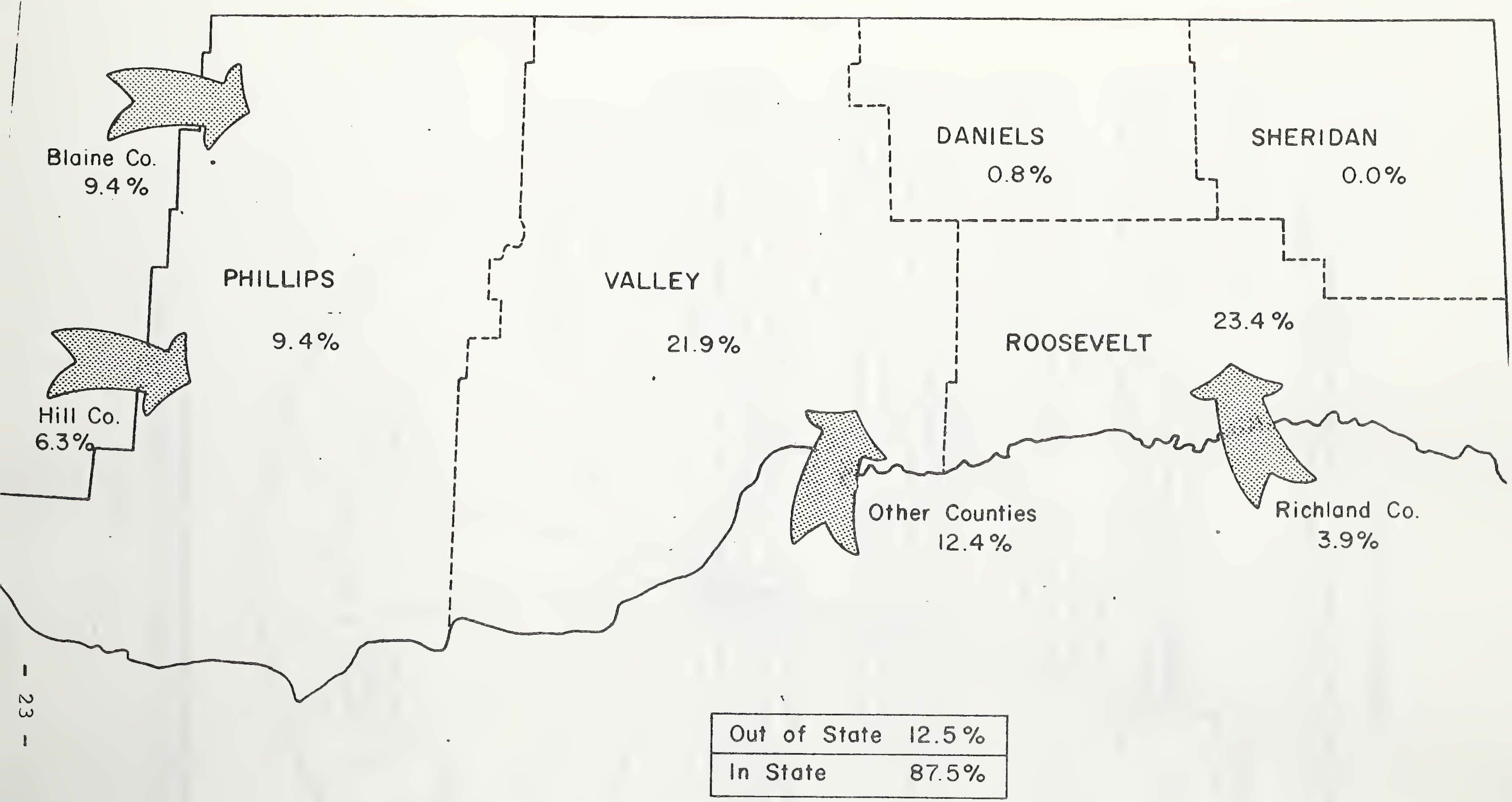
A number of cabin sites are located on the reservoir with little apparent conflict with other recreational use. The area has little or no potential for a concession enterprise at this time. Less use of the shoreline by grazing animals would enhance the recreation value.

PLANNING REGION 1

Frequency of Participation in Selected Outdoor Recreation Activities by Montana Residents - Yearly Average



The above percentages represent an activity's portion of all recreation time.


Blaine Co.
9.4%
Hill Co.
6.3%
PHILLIPS
9.4%
VALLEY
21.9%
DANIELS
0.8%
SHERIDAN
0.0%
ROOSEVELT
23.4%
Other Counties
12.4%
Richland Co.
3.9%
Out of State 12.5%
In State 87.5%

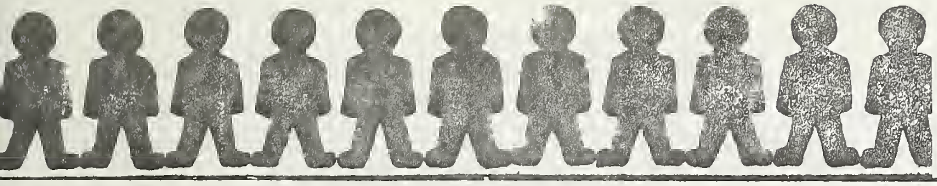
ORIGIN OF PARTIES RECREATING IN PLANNING REGION I

PLANNING REGION 1

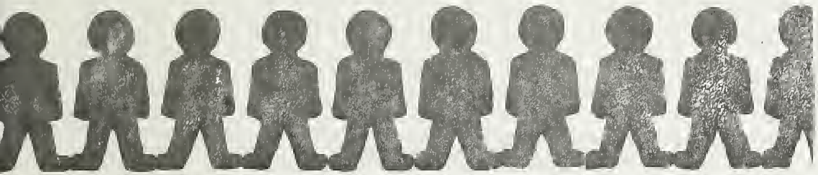
Leisure Time Activities Engaged in by Montana Residents - Yearly Average

[illegible]ch man equals 2 responses

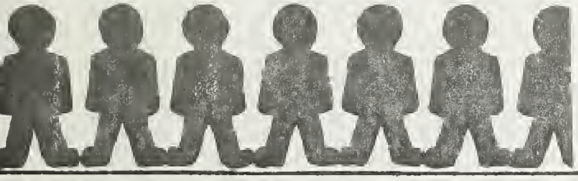
Indoor spectator activities (21.9)



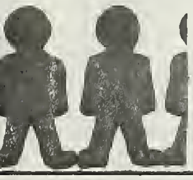
Social activities (19.1)



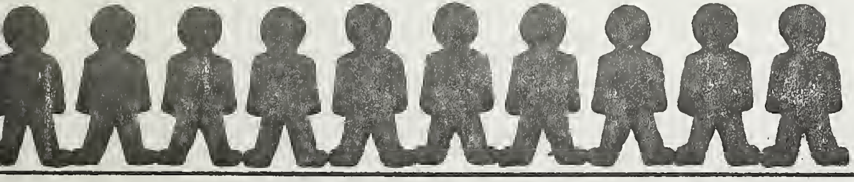
Indoor play activities (13.6)



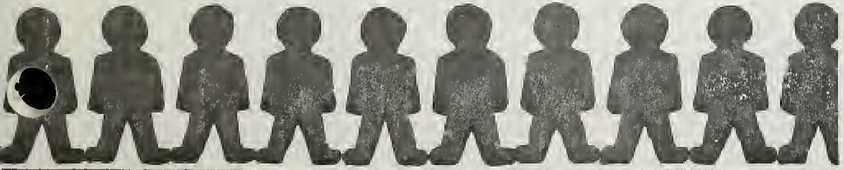
Self improvement activities (4.4)



Home related activities (20.0)



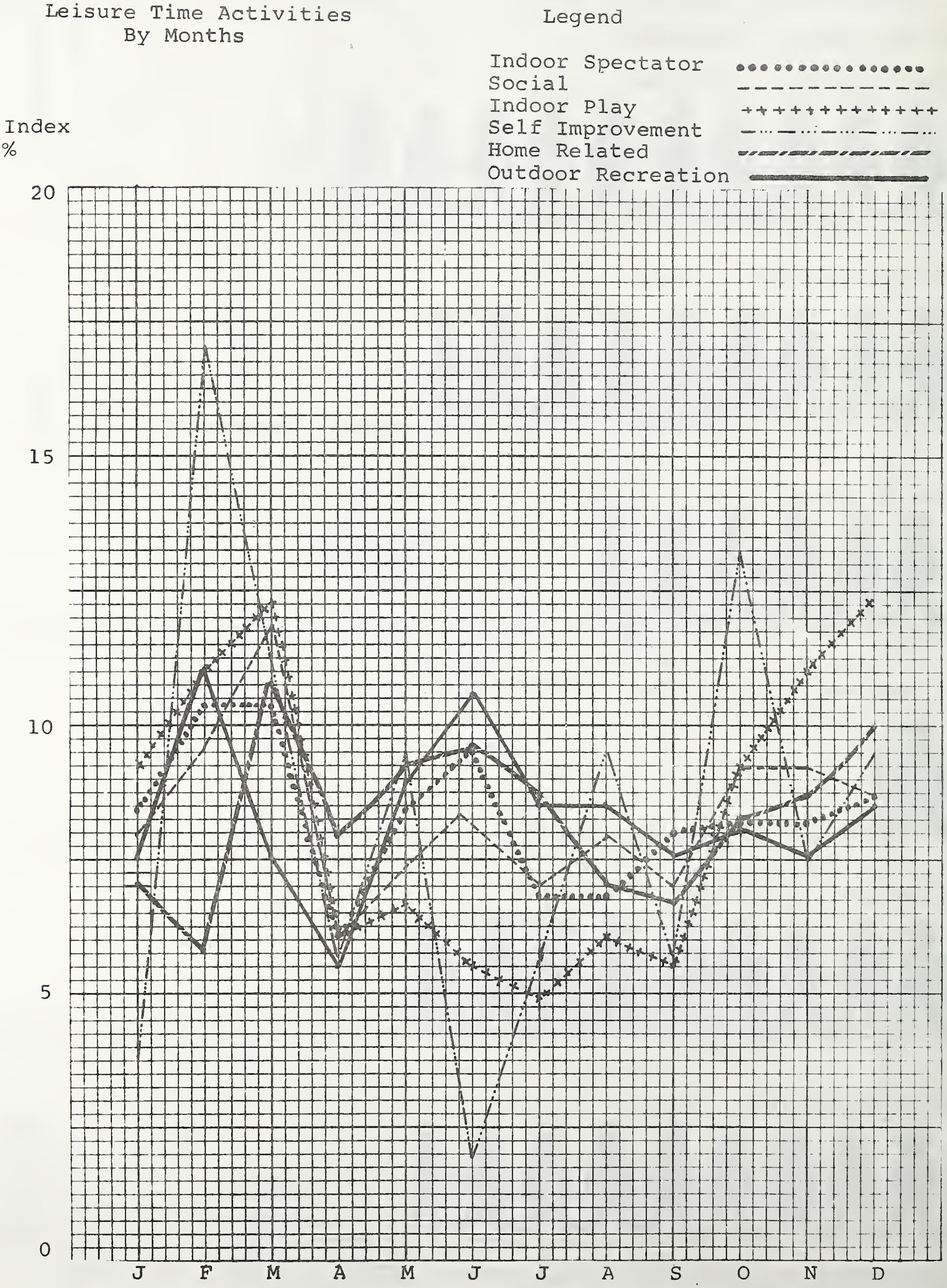
Outdoor Recreation (19.7)



Above numbers indicate the average monthly responses from surveyed residents in the planning region.

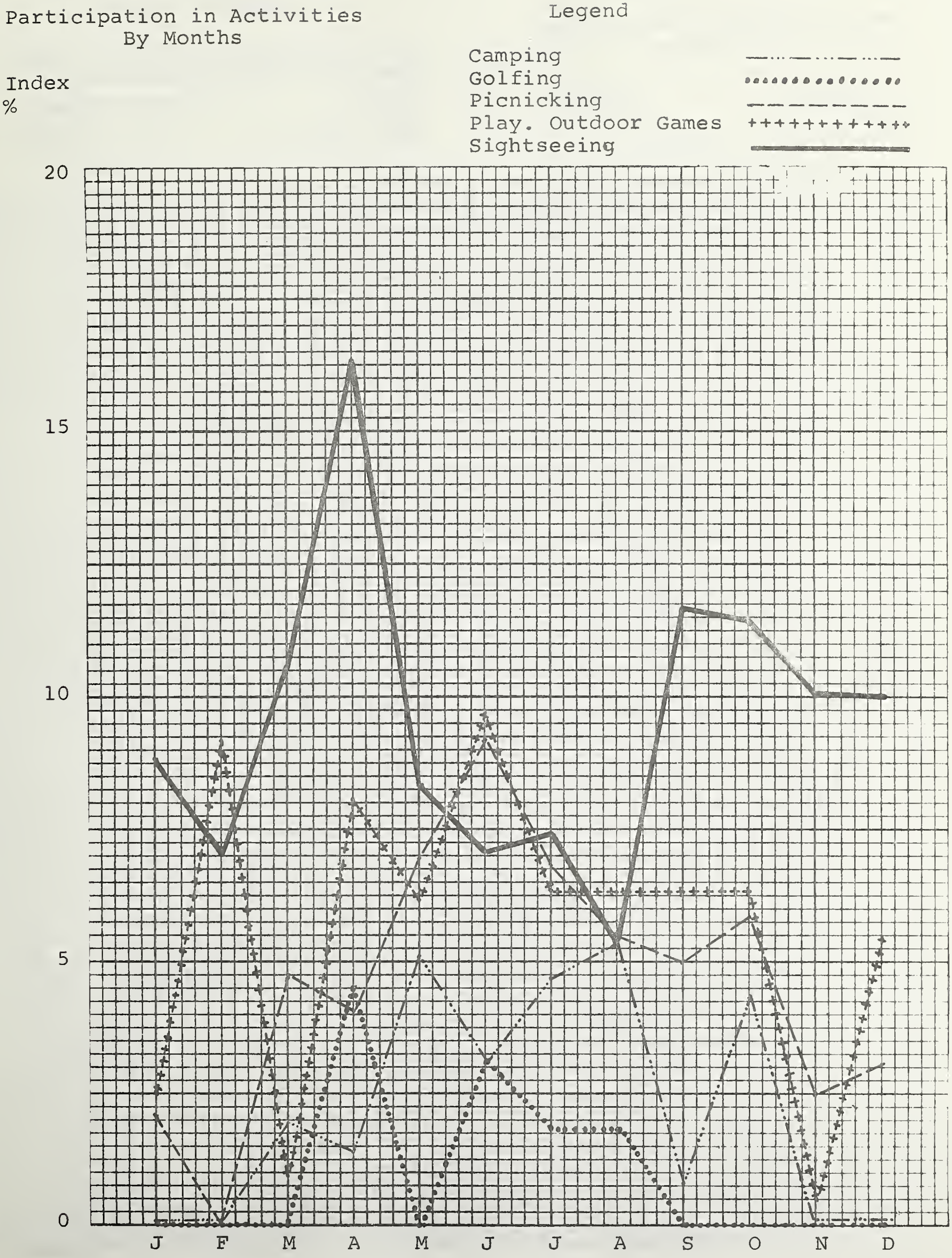
PLANNING REGION 1

Leisure Time Activities
By Months



PLANNING REGION 1

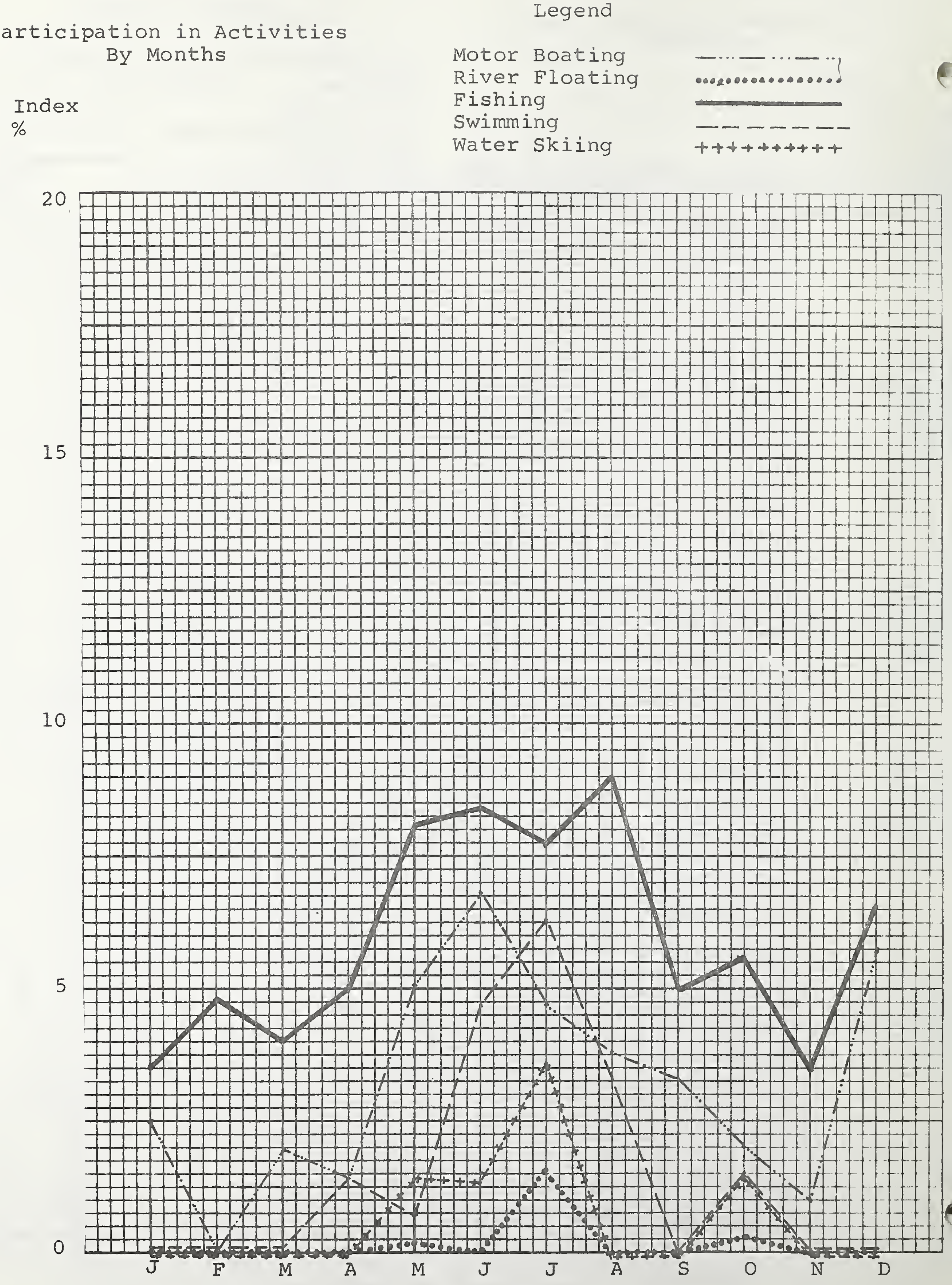
Participation in Activities
By Months



Activities Concentrated in One Area

PLANNING REGION 1

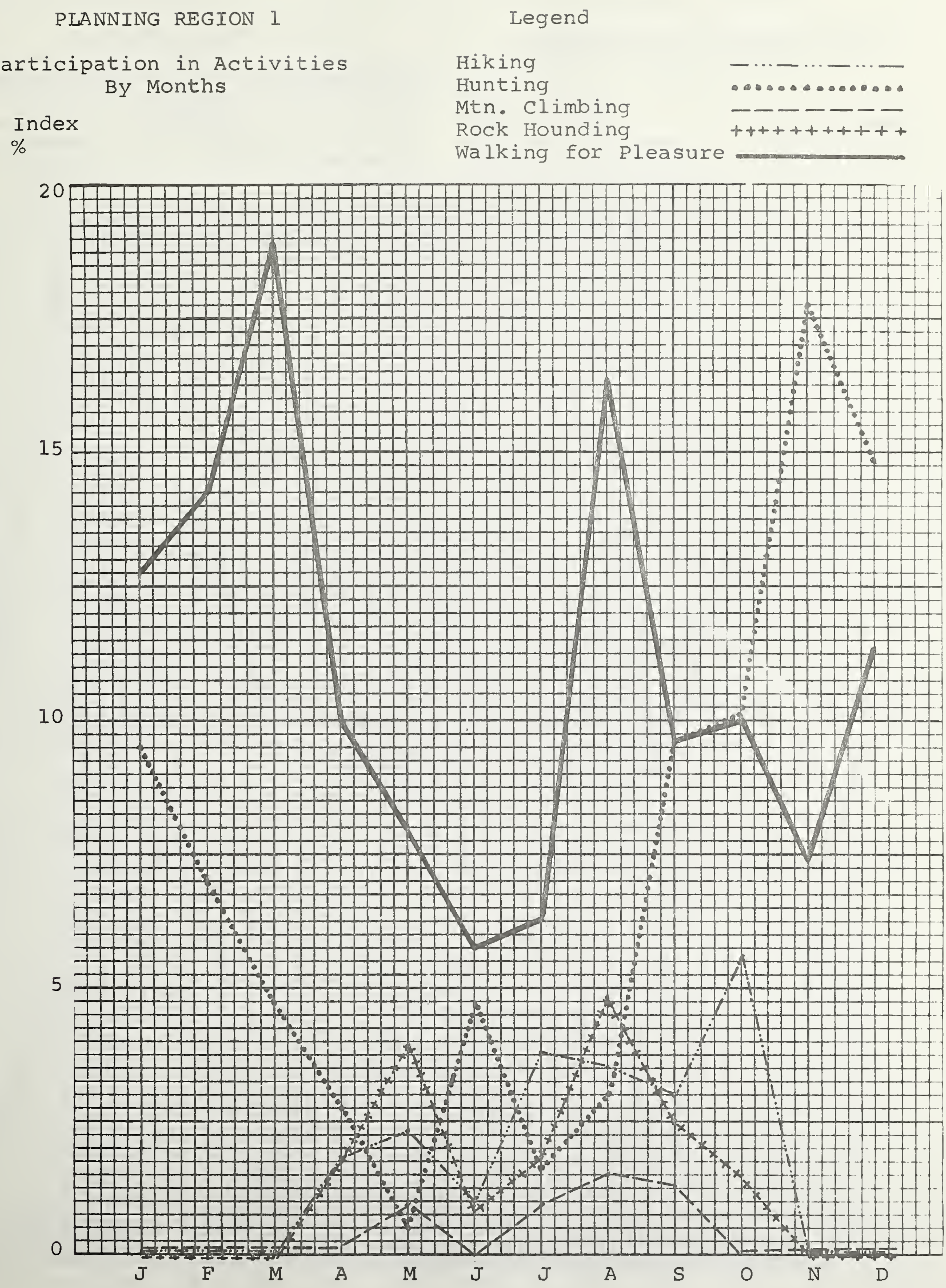
Participation in Activities
By Months



Water Oriented Activities

PLANNING REGION 1

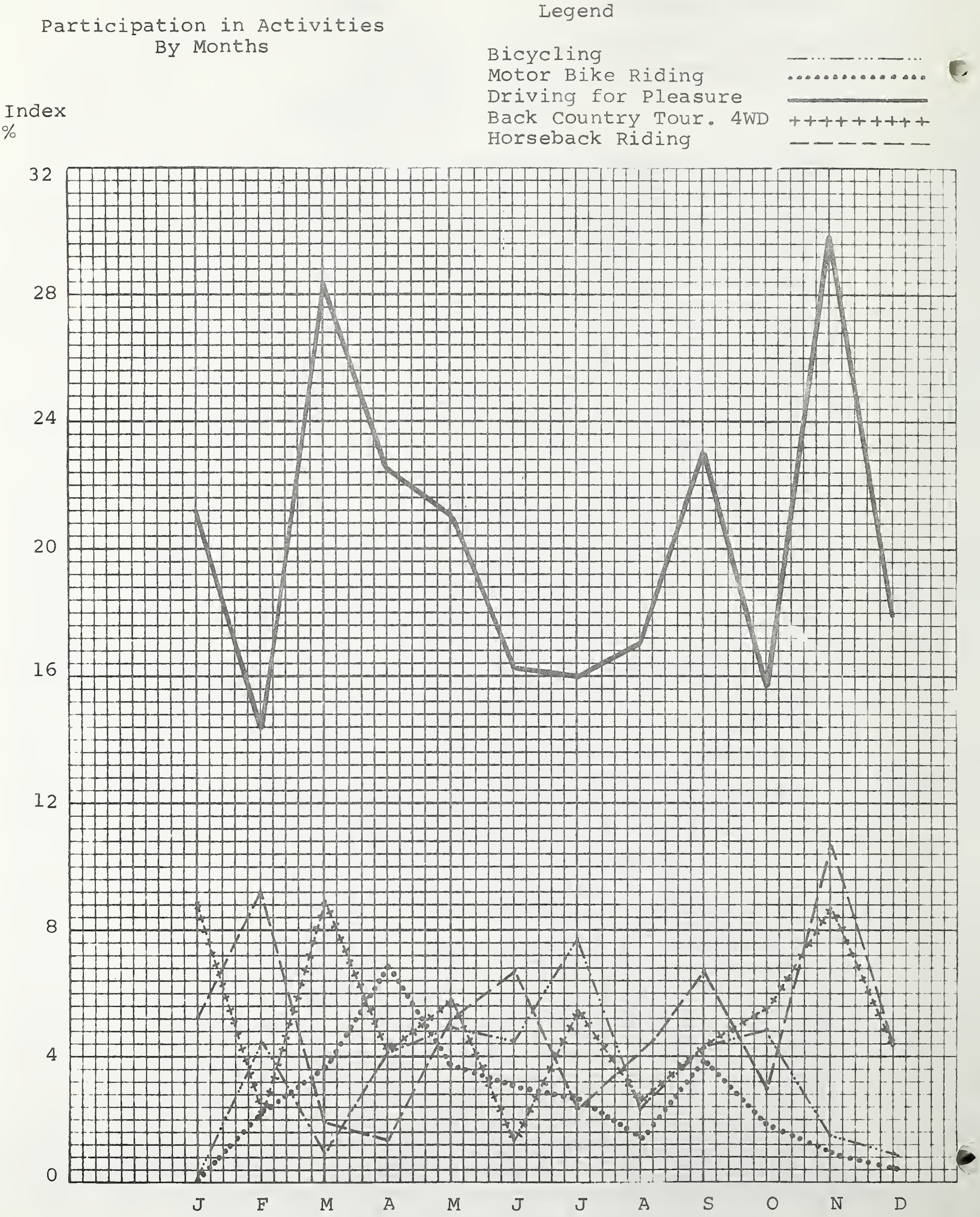
Participation in Activities By Months



Traveling Activities w/wo Vehicle

PLANNING REGION 1

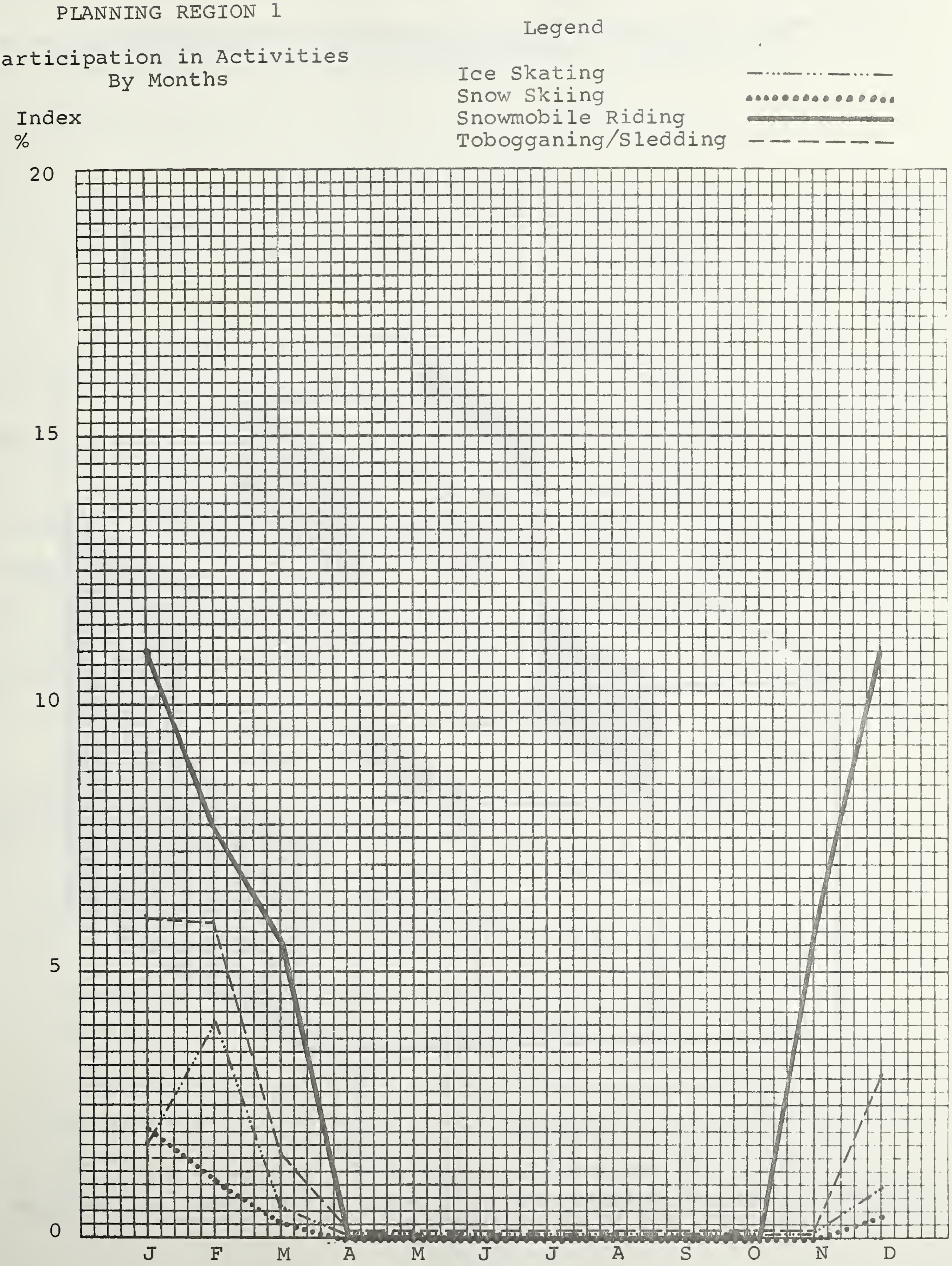
Participation in Activities
By Months



Traveling Activities - Vehicle Needed

PLANNING REGION 1

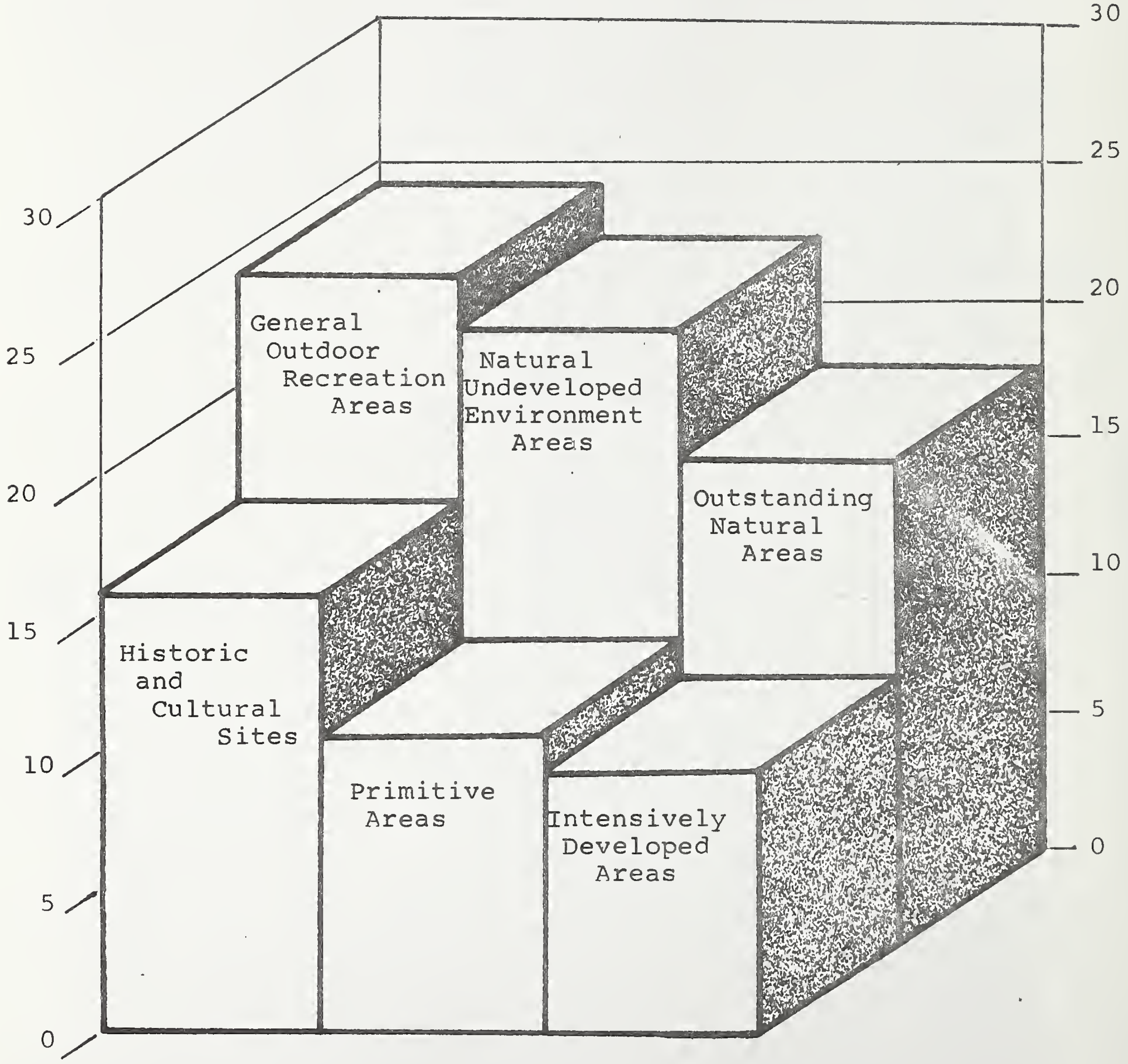
Participation in Activities
By Months



Winter Activities

PLANNING REGION 1

Preferences for Selected Types of Recreation Areas by Montana Residents
Yearly Totals



Numbers indicate a weighted percent based on the number of responses to first, second, and third preferences.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT RECREATION SUMMARY REGION 1

The following table tabulates facilities available for recreation in the municipalities of Glasgow, Malta, Plentywood, Wolf Point and Poplar.

MUNICIPAL FACILITIES

MUNICIPALITIES	1970 POPULATION	1972 PARK ACREAGE	Golf	Swimming Pool	Tennis	Multi-Purpose Courts	Baseball or Softball	Football	Children's Playgrounds	Large All Purpose Playfields	Picnic Areas	Designated Bike Trails	Indoor Recreation Centers	Facilities for the Handicapped	Special Accommodations for the Handicapped
Glasgow	4,700	32	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x			x		
	Facility Needs:		N	N	N	N	N		N		N	N	N	N	N
Malta	2,195	7		x			x	x	x		x		x		
	Facility Needs:						N		N	N					
Plentywood	2,381	0													
	Facility Needs:														
Wolf Point	3,095	25	x	x				x							
	Facility Needs:				N	N			N1	N1	N	N	N	N	N
Poplar	1,389	0									x				
	Facility Needs:			N											
	Facility Needs:														
	Facility Needs:														

1. Improvements

Recreation and parks expenditures, which include money for maintenance operation, personnel, acquisition, and development are tabulated below:

MUNICIPAL EXPENDITURES

	F. Y. 1970	F. Y. 1971	F. Y. 1972
Glasgow	$ 53,090	$ 67,600	$ 90,800
Malta	11,500	20,423	21,950
Plentywood	19,690	15,900	16,000
Wolf Point	27,000	37,000	36,726
Poplar	2,000	2,000	900

Glasgow indicates that a softball complex and tennis courts should be given the highest priority. Funding is the greatest assistance which is needed from the state presently. It is felt that legislation is needed to enable the state to pay one-quarter of the project costs, and local government pay one-quarter, where the locals now pay one-half.

New and unusual requests for recreation services have been experienced for such activities as a youth center, curling rink, roller rink, outdoor paddleball court, and indoor hockey rink. The major problem for the Glasgow park and recreation system is a lack of funds.

Malta, by bringing the Murray Addition into the city, will increase outdoor recreation opportunity in the area. It will be one acre of undeveloped land leaving an option open for future development (or no development). Decreased recreation opportunity resulted when Weise Park was unable to be purchased for public use.

Assistance is needed from the state to help complete development at Trafton Park. It is felt that local requests for B.O.R. projects should be approved in time to take advantage of available land or sites.

The major problem for Malta parks is vandalism. Another is the pressure on funds to pay for higher costs of school-aged swimming pool and summer recreation help attributable in part to the minimum wage laws.

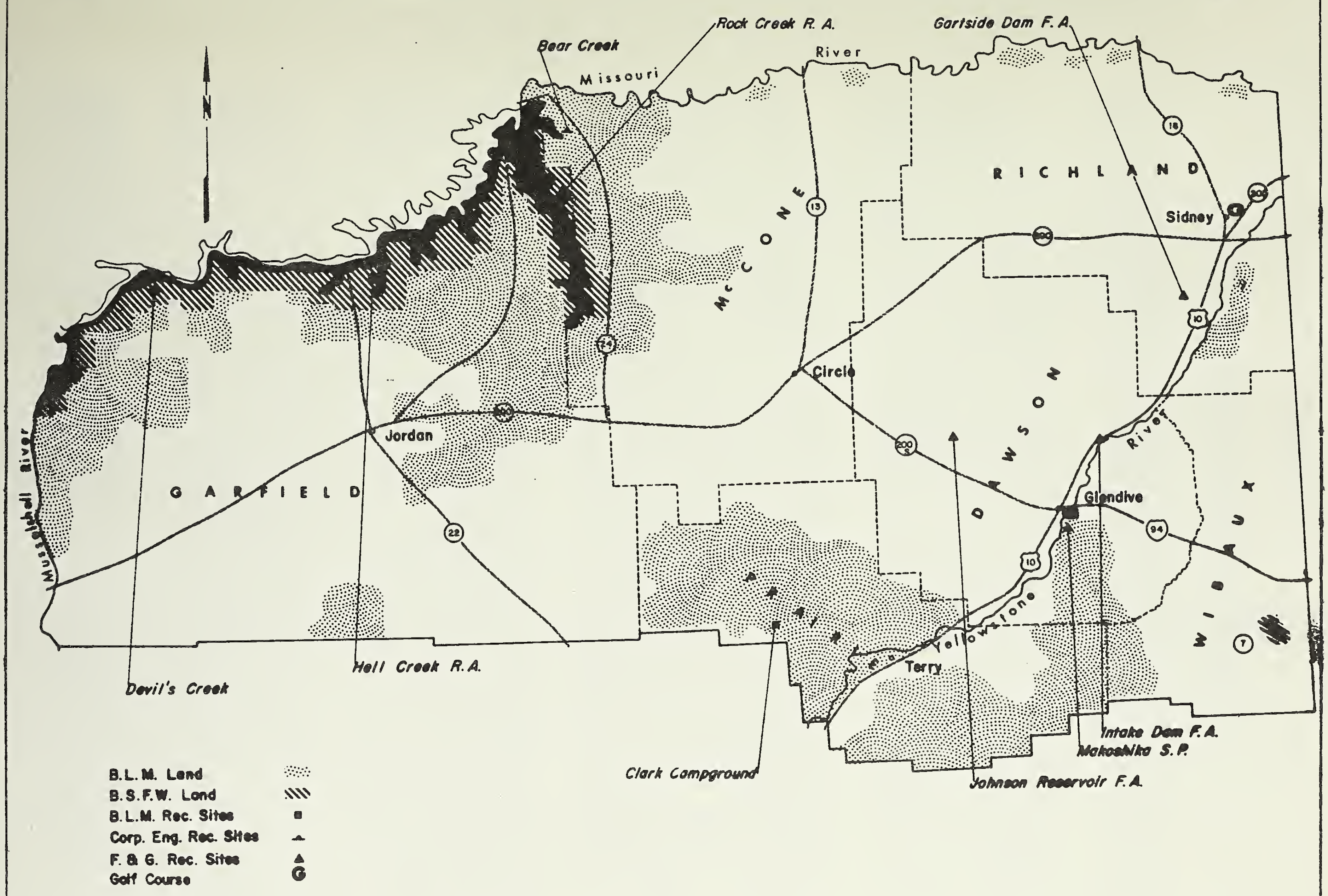
Wolf Point indicates that baseball fields, tennis courts and multi-purpose parks are the highest priority. Sponsorship of a summer recreation program by the schools, city, and Fort Peck Tribal Council has resulted in increased opportunity.

There is a strong need for development money; and as in Glasgow and other cities and towns, attaining matching funds on a 50% basis is difficult. Operation costs leave little for matching funds. The ratio of federal assistance should be increased. Requests for a greater variety of opportunity is occuring. Wolf Point is attempting to include more of the elderly and handicapped persons in their recreation program. Roosevelt County is proposing a small recreation dam be built locally.

The primary problem in Wolf Point is the lack of opportunity for the elderly, the handicapped and the female segment of the population, particularly at the younger age levels.

Poplar indicates a need for a swimming pool which should be given highest priority.

While Poplar does not have park acreage, it should be noted that the local school district and Fort Peck Tribes have play areas in Poplar.


Rock Creek R. A.
Gartside Dam F. A.
Bear Creek
Missouri
River
RICHLAND
Sidney
McCONE
Circle
DAWSON
Glendive
River
WIBAUX
GARFIELD
Jordan
Musselshell River
PRAIRIE
Yellowstone
Terry
Hell Creek R. A.
Devil's Creek
Clark Campground
Johnson Reservoir F. A.
Intake Dam F. A.
Makoshika S. P.
B.L.M. Land
B.S.F.W. Land
B.L.M. Rec. Sites
Corp. Eng. Rec. Sites
F. & G. Rec. Sites
Golf Course
N
13
18
10
200
200 S
24
22
94
7

PLANNING REGION 2

REGION 2

SUMMARY OF MAJOR RECREATION PROBLEMS

The recreational potential of this attractive and expansive prairie country is considerable. Certain developments are desirable or needed, however, in order to capitalize upon these resources.

The general characteristics of recreation problems in region 2 are similar to those in region 1. The major water resource, Fort Peck Reservoir, is not conveniently accessible to much of the region's population which is located in the valley of the Yellowstone River. Access roads are less of a problem, but need improvement. While the southeasterly arm of the reservoir is accessible, it is not developed to the extent that would be desired by residents of communities in this region.

There is a lack of developed sites close to where the people live. While there is a great deal of open, undeveloped land and consequent freedom to move about, designated sites with facilities would be an inducement. The climatic conditions and the lack of vegetation for shelter, shade and screening need to be overcome to some degree with a higher standard of development at designated areas. Provisions must be made for more comfortable use of some areas such as picnic sites, where exposure to the elements is more of a factor than in the forested regions. This is particularly appropriate where the elderly, less capable or handicapped recreation visitor is concerned.

The recreational potential of the Yellowstone River and the valley environment is not generally available and recreation areas on the river should be secured. With the popularity of river floating increasing, access and egress points on the river should be provided. The wooded bottomlands of the river valley offer a cool retreat in summer and this should be provided in a recreational manner. Hunting, very popular in the autumn, would also be favored by strategic access areas.

There are additional scenic areas in the badlands country adjoining Makoshika Park that are not easily accessible at this time. The dispersed type of recreational opportunity which is possible on the lands of the public domain would be more easily capitalized upon if the boundaries of public lands were designated. This would avoid confusion between public and private lands and the consequent encroachment on the private owner.

Hunters are find increasing problems of access and private landowners are suffering damage to their properties. Additional good quality fishing reservoirs for public use are needed. There are a number of private ponds with good fishing which the owners might consider opening to reasonable public use.

REGION 2

GEOGRAPHIC, POPULATION AND HISTORIC CHARACTERISTICS

Open spaces, vast distances and rather sparsely inhabited areas are all characteristic of this agriculturally oriented region. It is a zone of transition, ranging from the isolated expanses of grazing and ranch lands in the northwestern portion, through the dryland farming areas of the mid region to the intensively irrigated lands adjoining the Yellowstone River in the northeast sector. Garfield County, one of the least densely populated counties in the nation, still retains much of the character of the old west, a recreational attraction in itself. The badlands of the southeastern portion, likewise are almost devoid of human habitation. Here the rugged topography, the unique and scenic land forms and the lack of vegetation give a forbidding character to the landscape, which is, nevertheless, a source of attraction to resident and visitor alike. Separating these two subregions is the Yellowstone River losing its identy as it merges with the Missouri just over the boundary in neighboring North Dakota.

This region is characterized by flat or rolling prairies, rough breaks, badlands and river flood plains. Its natural vegetation consists primarily of prairie type grassland and undifferentiated grassland where the land has not been cultivated. The undifferentiated grasses consist mostly of wheat grass, gramma grass, bunch grass and blue grass. The deciduous trees which inhabit this region are confined to the long, narrow stream beds and flood plains of the rivers. These trees are cottonwoods, willows and alders and there are occasional wet meadows interspersed among them. Only a small area of coniferous forest exists in the far western part of the region. It inhabits the area near Fort Peck Reservoir and is a Ponderosa Pine open woodland forest.

The water resources are very limited in this region and consist of only two major areas. The Fort Peck Reservoir and the Missouri River border Region 2 on the north, while the Yellowstone River cuts through the eastern part of the region.

The climate in this region is similar to other eastern Montana areas. Low winter temperatures and a wide range of temperatures from winter to summer characterize this area. Cold air masses collect in some river valleys and result in lower average temperatures for towns located there. A spring and summer maximum rainfall is characteristic in this region.

The regional population, according to the 1970 official census, is 28,994 persons with county totals as indicated below:

Region 2 Population Distribution

County	Persons
Dawson	11,269
Garfield	1,796
McCone	2,875
Prairie	1,752
Richland	9,837
Wibaux	+ 1,465
Region Total	28,994

Much of this population is concentrated in the Yellowstone River Valley with regional centers at Glendive (6,305 persons) and Sidney (4,543 persons). Regionally, only 10,848 persons (37.4%) are urban area residents. Minority group representation is very small in this region and is insignificant as a total. The region has lost population since 1960 with Prairie County down 24%, Wibaux and McCone down 13%, Garfield down 9%, Dawson down 8% and Richland down 6%.

The region is served by rail, air transportation with major airports at Glendive and Sidney, and primary highways with Interstate 94 passing east and west through Glendive.

The region's economy is based upon agriculture, more persons being employed in agricultural pursuits than any other industry. Other important industries include wholesale-retail trade, professional services, transportation and some non-durable manufacturing in Richland County. Much of the region is underlain with lignite, a potential energy source.

Public land in Region 2 does not account for as much area as in other regions. The following table indicates the percentage of public land in each county in this region.

PUBLIC LAND IN REGION 2 *

County	%	Square Miles
Dawson	10.3	246
Garfield	27.3	1310
McCone	20.2	534
Prairie	47.1	817
Richalnd	10.1	212
Wibaux	10.4	93
	22.1	3212

* Does not include local government land

This public land is administered with major public land holdings as follows:

PUBLIC LAND ADMINISTRATION REGION 2

Agency	Land (acres)
Federal:	
Bureau of Land Management	1,323,408
U. S. Army	191,533
Bureau of Sport Fisheries & Wildlife	160
Total	1,515,101
State:	
Dept. of State Lands (not including State forest land)	534,043
Department of Fish and Game	2,696
Total	536,739
Indian Reservations:	
Fort Peck Reservation	7,040
Local:	
Community Parks	95

Regional Points of Interest

The C. M. Russell National Wildlife Range

Fort Peck Dam & Reservoir

Makoshika State Park

Glendive

The Frontier Gateway Museum at Glendive and the McCone County Museum at Circle offer the visitor information about this agricultural and livestock region.

Historic Sites

The Hagen Site near Glendive is a late prehistoric earth lodge village dating from circa 1600. It is believed to represent a Crow Indian settlement before they became fully nomadic hunters. Partial excavation of the site in 1938 revealed a midden area covering ten acres with storage pits, mounds, and a circular house being found. This site is a national historic landmark but is on private ground and not accessible without permission.

Another major historic site in the region is the Pierre Wibaux home and office building in the town of Wibaux. Wibaux was one of the foremost early ranchers in the late 1800's and owned one of the largest spreads in the world.

Below is a summary chart listing the major historic sites in Region 2.

HISTORIC SITES IN REGION 2

Historic Site	County (s)	Significant Dates	Significance
Camp Canby	Dawson	1873	Transportation
NHL-NR Hagen Site	Dawson	1600's	Prehistoric-abor.
Stanley's Stockade	Dawson	1873	Commerce
Fort Musselshell	Garfield	1860's	Commerce
C.M. Russell Nat'l Wildlife Range	Garfield & McCone	1934	Conservation
Baldwin's Fight on the Redwater	McCone	1876	Military
Fort Peck Dam	McCone-Valley	1933	Engineering
DeSmet-Sioux 1868 Treaty Site	Prairie	1868	Historic-abor.
Miles's Fight with Sitting Bull	Prairie	1876	Military
Terry's Supply Camp	Prairie	1876	Military
Brazeau Houses	Richland	1820's	Commerce
Fort Gilbert	Richland	1860's	Commerce
O'Briens Stage Stn.	Richland	1880's	Architecture
W-Bar Ranch	Wibaux	1880's	Agriculture
NR Wibaux Home & Office Building	Wibaux	1870's	Agriculture

NHL = National Historic Landmark
NR = Site is listed on the National Register of Historic Places

CHARACTERISTICS OF RECREATION USE

Leisure Time in Region 2

Putting outdoor recreation in its proper perspective, it appears that on the average over a years period, more Montana residents engaged in indoor spectator activities than in any other leisure time activities. These activities hit their peak in the winter months.

The second most popular were home-related activities such as gardening and home improvements. Social activities, indoor play activities and self-improvement activities also were participated in to a greater extent than outdoor recreation.

Outdoor recreation activities were third most popular throughout the year, but conversely, reached a peak in spring and early summer. These data indicate that although outdoor recreation is a relatively high priority in Region 2, it is not first or second.

(for a more complete graphic account, see Appendix.)

The Characteristics and Viewpoints of the Park User in Region 2

(Note: Region 2 data obtained for this section is based on only 41 survey returns; with a sample of this size, the validity of the section must not be considered as definitive.)

The Montana resident was by far the greatest user of park and recreation facilities in Region 2. 70.7% of all persons using region parks and campgrounds surveyed indicated they were residents as opposed to 29.3% non-residents. Fully 56% of those contacted who were recreating in Region 2 were residents of this region. 44% of those persons were from Dawson County. The most frequent party size encountered were four persons. Day use of the areas was most predominant. Approximately 40% of those contacted indicated they were using the area for one day or less and no sleeping accommodation would be needed. Overnight trips were second most frequent length of stay.

More recreationists chose a recreation area in Region 2 because at the site they could participate in a desired activity, 54%, than for any other reason. 39% chose areas because they were near home. Generally, recreationists using Region 2 areas indicated that conditions of facilities were considerably below state averages. They also indicated that most areas had more than ample space, but access to many areas and location of facilities were poor. A full 63% indicated a need for additional activities or facilities at selected parks in Region 2.

One of the most popular activities in parks and recreation areas was simply resting and relaxing; 63% of all those contacted engaged in this passive activity. Second most popular among users was picnicking with 61% participating. Camping was third with 46%. In activities preferred, the users stated picnicking as a first preference, with resting and relaxing second. Fishing was preferred next.

Implications

1. Resident local use and use from nearby counties predominates and these people recreate at areas where they can do a certain activity or where they are close to home. Many are family groups and are frequently out on one-day excursions.

2. Out-of-state visitors are not prominent users of area parks. Difficulty of access is no doubt a factor.

3. A majority of the users undoubtedly wish a scenic area to recreate at with facilities in good condition for both passive and active pastimes. (Note high incidence of resting and relaxing.)

4. Picnicking (passive) was also very popular and ranked first in preference indicating that people would do more picnicking if more and better sites were available. Fishing was also preferred in a higher degree than it was engaged in indicating more fishing might be done if there were more sites in addition to the reservoir.

Characteristics of the resident respondents can be found in the Appendix. These data include the respondents marital status, sex, age, household status, employment, vacation allowance, available time and general health.

Tables following indicates the frequency of participation in various activities by those surveyed and is a measure of their popularity in Region 2.

An indication of preferences was obtained and again a perfect correlation did not exist. Driving for pleasure ranked first both in participation and preference indicating that in this activity people did what they said they preferred most and preferred what they did most. Fishing was preferred more than it was engaged in as was hunting and horseback riding by residents of Region 2. Walking for pleasure was one of the top five activities preferred.

In water oriented activities, fishing popularity substantially outweighs other activities and reaches seasonal peaks in the spring and fall. Paddle fishing in particular is a noted sport in this region. In winter activities, snowmobiling has an edge in popularity. Considering activities generally concentrated in one area, sightseeing is popular throughout the year and has only a slight edge on picnicking and camping which peak during the summer. For activities which involve traveling with or without a vehicle, walking for pleasure far outweighs other activities and is most popular in the cooler months. In activities where a vehicle is needed, driving for pleasure again outweighed by far other activities and dipped only in June. (For a detailed graphic account see Appendix.)

Residents of Region 2 stated that when recreating outdoors they preferred general outdoor recreation areas first. These include state park and recreation areas, forest campgrounds with developed picnic, boating, camping facilities, etc. Second type of area preferred was the Natural Undeveloped Environment area where selected activities may take place but there exists little development. Outstanding Natural areas such as the Makoshika badlands and Lewis & Clark Caverns were third most popular. (See Appendix for further details.)

Implications

1. Because of the high amount of driving for pleasure engaged in and preferred, facilities to allow more pleasurable driving should be available to Region 2 residents.

2. Other activities which should be planned for in Region 2 are walking for pleasure, fishing, hunting, horseback riding, sightseeing, picnicking and snowmobiling.

3. For an important segment, children, activities which should get increased attention are: bicycling and playing outdoor games.

4. Residents of Region 2 desire above all outdoor recreation that centers around developed facilities in parks, wooded areas, campgrounds, etc., with a secondary interest in natural areas with few facilities. Outstanding natural areas are also desired.

5. Region 2 residents want natural areas easily accessible for day use, many but not all, with developed facilities to accommodate certain more popular activities as mentioned above. Some of the activities are more closely associated with the urban picture and should be given due attention.

Problems and Potentials in Recreation for Region 2

Driving for pleasure was rated number one according to the portion of recreation time it accounted for. People in Region 2 spent more time engaged in driving for pleasure, 20.8%, than in any other activity. Sightseeing, which is often done while driving was rated fourth. Sightseeing accounted for 7.1% of all recreation time spent. Together they account for 27.9% of recreation time and by far outwiegh other activities. Many paved highways carrying high speed traffic do not provide the safety or atmosphere for pleasure driving. Nor are they usually a circuitous route, which enhances driving. Areas with the greatest potential for driving would be the Missouri River Valley and the Yellowstone River Valley. One other area with good potential is the Fort Peck Reservoir perimeter with the Missouri River breaks. Plans for access roads into certain parts of the area are underway. Loop roads are most desirable for this activity and historical, cultural, and natural history points of interest provide much toward an interesting drive, as well as picnicking, rest, and other well signed facilities.

Walking for pleasure is usually related to other interests and is done in many places for many reasons, with certain types of areas having more potential than others in Region 2. Urban areas need pleasurable walkways to serve the greater concentration of people, especially those without auto or other transportation. The river valleys again are interesting areas but walkway development must be associated with a town, or other point of interest. Water bodies and streams offer an attraction and walking trails should be available. Some walking trails are being planned for access to points of interest around certain areas of Fort Peck Reservoir in conjunction with other development. Perhaps multiple use trails are needed along rivers near urban centers.

This region has a number of warm water fisheries that offer medium potential for fishing. The lower Missouri and Yellowstone Rivers sustain fair fish populations of ling, sauger, cod and catfish. Fishing these stretches of the rivers for the unique paddlefish during their spawning run in the spring is a rare and much sought after recreational pursuit that is rapidly growing. Some sites are presently available in this region but it appears more areas are needed as expressed in the interest shown. Proper water level management in Fort Peck Reservoir is needed to improve the sport fishery. Stock ponds need inventorying identifying and publicizing so the public may have access to them. In some areas the access to fishing points is hampered by lack of decent roads or no roads at all.

It appears the region has the resources for hunting but not the easy access; much of the land is private. Many of the ranches may have reached a saturation point with regard to hunting encroachment. This region has a high potential for big game hunting, and average potential for small game and waterfowl hunting.

Much of the horseback riding is done under private auspices: outfitters, farmer, saddle clubs. Near the town of Fort Peck, there is some horse rental and horse trails might be incorporated in an area along the Musselshell River. Potential areas are again adjacent to the Fort Peck Reservoir including the Hell Creek area. Horseback riding is often associated with vacation farms or ranches and park trips. It is oriented to natural or scenic areas and population and proximity to urban areas.

The need for pleasant picnicking facilities has been intimated and perhaps fewer quality sites in Region 2 would be better than many poorer sites. The public must be informed as to these locations. Associated with this concept is the need for more quality rest stops with picnic facilities. Poorly constructed ones should be eliminated. Shelters should be provided where there are no trees. Group shelters are not necessary at highway rest stops. Many refuges have picnic facilities and recognize the popularity of picnicking. A problem is the inability to maintain numerous picnic sites. Ideally, education of the public to carry away their refuse would be an answer. Site planning could be improved also. Picnicking would appear to have potential especially along the Yellowstone and Missouri Rivers and around Fort Peck Reservoir. Picnic rest stops are needed throughout the region.

The Fort Peck area is not heavily used for snowmobiling because of its distant location from population centers. Some plans are being developed for snowmobile trails in the region by public agencies. The potential for snowmobiling and other winter sports is limited by erratic snow cover and periodic winds.

Back country touring in ATV's and 4-wheel drive vehicles has caused much concern recently over the damage they cause. Undoubtedly it is a small minority of owners of these vehicles who are responsible but it appears that more than a few selected public areas will probably be closed to this type of recreation in the near future. Presently, no off-road travel is allowed within the C. M. Russell Game Range except to retrieve game during hunting season.

Bicycling in Region 2 is mostly limited to intra-urban areas and most development should be within the urban areas. Some bike trails might be developed from urban areas to and along waterways. Probably long distance bike trails between cities and towns in this region would be unfeasible and used very little.

There is potential for camping in the Fort Peck Reservoir area, both for developed and primitive types. Many of the areas receive transient use. It appears the potential for transient campground development is high in this region expecially along the Yellowstone River. Many non-residents do not care to go off of paved roads to find campgrounds. The private sector is providing more campgrounds than previously, but careful study must be made to assure the best chance of success.

Motor boating is limited to the Yellowstone and Missouri Rivers and Fort Peck Reservoir. Fort Peck has a very high potential for serving water sports. Its location away from major population centers make its use minimal at the present. River floating is also popular along the Yellowstone River in particular.

The eastern part of the state must be developed for recreation in the future not only to offer its own residents recreation but provide alternatives for the heavily used western part of the state. Publicity should be given to the area attractions which although unknown to many residents and non-residents, are notable, many and diverse.

There is a large quantity of public land in Region 2, however, much of it is unsuitable for recreation. Much of the burden of providing for recreation will then fall onto private owners. Only around Fort Peck is there considerable public land which might be useable for recreation.

Inventory of Facilities

Federal and State Recreation Facilities

In Region 2 the Montana Fish and Game Department, the Army Corps of Engineers and the Bureau of Land Management are the primary public agencies which presently provide facilities for recreation. Major areas and selected facilities are summarized below:

FEDERAL AND STATE RECREATION AREAS - REGION 2

Federal	Picnic Units	Camping Units	Swimming Area Available	Fishing Access Available	Boat Ramp. Available
Army Corps of Engineers					
Bear Creek	5	10	0	X	0
Devils Creek	5	5	X	X	X
Total	10	15	1	2	0
Bureau of Land Management					
Clark Campground	0	5	0	0	0
Total	0	5	0	0	0
State					
Department of Fish and Game					
Rock Creek SRA	10	15	X	X	X
Hell Creek SRA	10	5	X	X	X
Makoshika SP	28	0	0	0	0
Gartside Dam FAS	0	0	0	X	0

Intake Dam FAS	12	0	0	X	X
Johnson Reservoir FAS	0	0	0	X	0
Total	60	20	2	5	3
Total Selected Facilities Region 2	70	40	3	7	3

MAJOR RECREATION RESOURCES

MAKOSHIKA STATE PARK

The primary attractions for the visitor to this park are the badlands formations characteristic of much of the region lying south and east of the town of Glendive. The park encompasses the more scenic of these areas and the visitor has the opportunity to observe these close at hand and enjoy the more extensive views from the higher elevations. The rugged terrain and the fragile nature of the resource dictate the pattern of development rather closely. The predominance of the steep slopes, cliffs and otherwise irregular topography leaves a rather limited area for facilities, and park use is dominated by these considerations.

The present park facilities provide the opportunity for limited camping, picnicking, use of trails, and sightseeing. An interpretive program is being completed which will add to the visitor's enjoyment and knowledge of the natural history of the region.

Lands presently owned or administered by the Department of Fish and Game total approximately 800 acres. Future development will be limited to enhancement of present facilities and an expanded interpretive program. The park will thus be able to accommodate additional day users, while the prospect for increased camping is minor. Any significant increase in camping accommodations would of necessity be based upon additions to the total acreage of the park as a whole.

YELLOWSTONE RIVER VALLEY

In a region of limited rainfall and few year around streams, the Yellowstone River is a major water resource. It is a highly important economic factor in that it supplies irrigation water for a well-developed agricultural economy. The characteristics of the river change in Region Two as opposed to Region Three in that the flood plain narrows, agricultural use becomes less intensive and the river environment becomes more scenic with adjacent bluffs.

Despite the agricultural use of the water, the river affords considerable potential for recreational use, floating, wildlife viewing, hunting, etc. The bottomlands with stands of mature cottonwood and other native vegetation offer a scenic contrast to the adjoining lands and provide some climatic relief in summer and winter. Current recreational use is moderate due to the limited access to the stream. Agricultural use, while it limits access at this time, is not necessarily a detriment and for many visitors it would enhance the interest of the area itself.

Despite present land uses, segments of the valley retain much of the original character and appearance before settlement. These portions should be investigated to find suitable areas for preservation of this type of river environment. In addition to basic preservation of a characteristic type of natural resource, such areas would provide for the traditional uses such as camping, picnicking and water oriented pursuits. River floating would be a prominent activity and appropriate access and egress points should be provided. There is abundant wildlife, both game and nongame, and such sites would provide some additional resources for wildlife habitat.

Ideally, the river valley should be developed in terms of a wildlife and recreation area system. Such a system should provide for a variety of habitat adequate in quantity for management plus a variety of sites for appropriate recreational use. A dispersed but unified system would provide for a dispersal of recreation use, thus protecting the basic resource and enhancing the recreational experience itself.

A considerable portion of the region's urban and rural population is located in the river valley, and a series of sites would provide recreational opportunity where people reside. The interstate highway generally paralleling the valley is a main travel route into the state and these visitors would be accommodated to some degree.

MISSOURI RIVER

The region is bordered on the north by a section of the Missouri River below Fort Peck Dam. The river possesses some degree of recreational potential and also exhibits the characteristics of the eastern Montana portion of the stream before inundation by the reservoir. As with the Yellowstone, the river and its woodland environment offer a visual point of interest and a scenic contrast to adjoining grazing and agricultural lands.

The river should be studied for possibility of preservation of certain portions of the waterway. Preservation of one or more segments would offer not only examples of the original character of the valley, but would offer other values as well. The customary activities of camping, picnicking and hiking along woodland trails would be afforded along with a moderate amount of water oriented recreation. Float trips are a diversion which would be easily accommodated provided there were sufficient access and egress points. While the water is somewhat silty, there is nevertheless opportunity for fishing.

Wildlife in both game and nongame species find a haven in the woodlands and permanent access areas of sufficient size for management would assure both protection of this resource and enhancement of recreation as well.

The river development should be planned in terms of a system, implying a variety of sites and a unified dispersion of the areas. Local government needs should be taken into consideration in the planning, although such sites should not be a substitute for local governmental responsibility.

FORT PECK RESERVOIR

NOTE: A more complete description is found in Region 1.

This huge body of water dominates the region, although access is somewhat difficult and is not highly developed. For the more adventurous, the remote areas and the expanses of water are a challenge and a dramatic contrast to the general character of the region itself. Recreational use is limited only by the inadequate roads and by the degree of self-reliance required of the visitor.

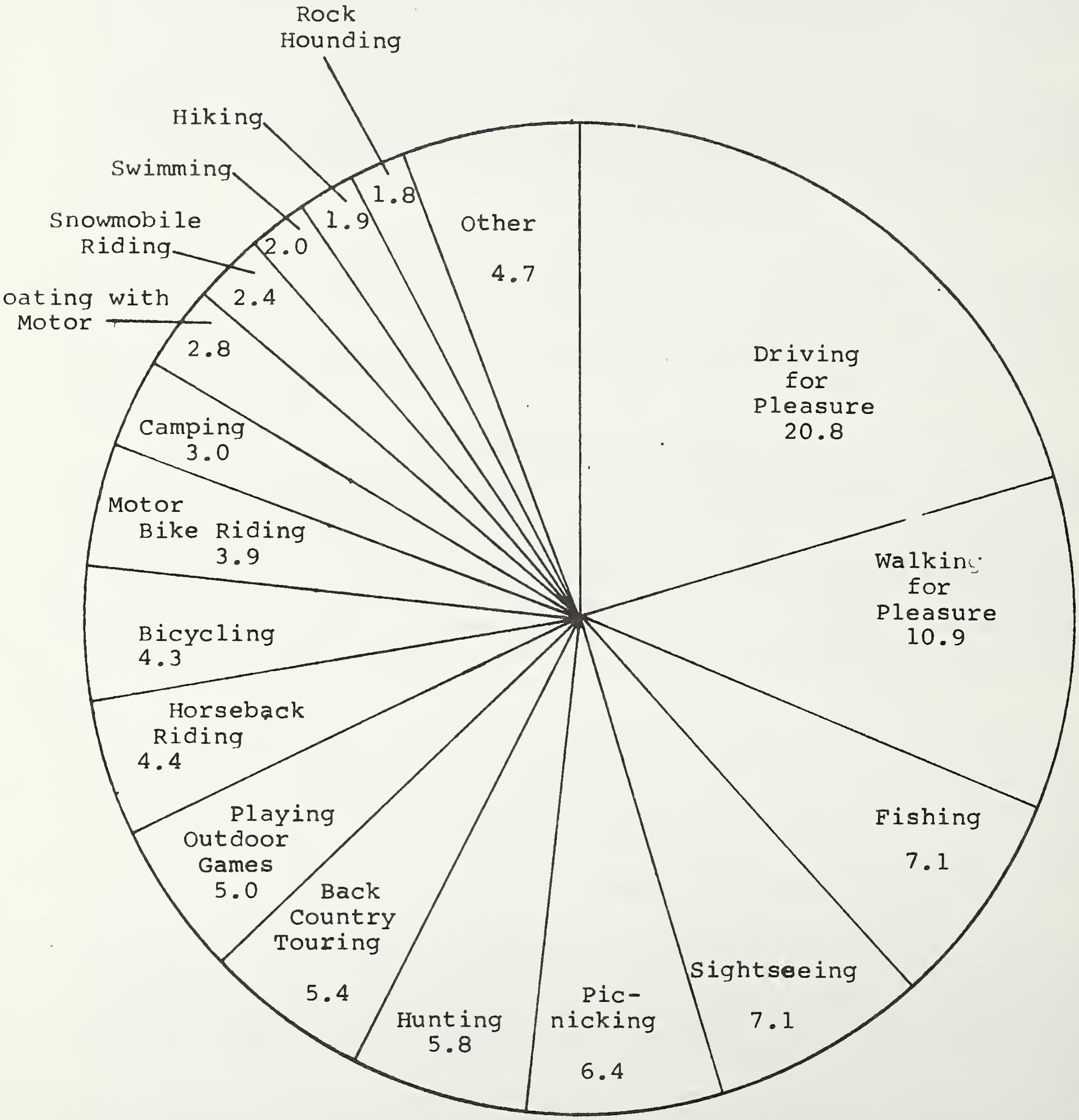
While the entire reservoir is an attraction, the resident of the region will find adequate opportunity in the southeastern area known locally as the Big Dry. The primary development on this sector is the Rock Creek area, administered by the Department of Fish and Game and leased from the Corp of Engineers. This site receives its primary use from the residents of Glendive, Sidney, Circle, Brockway, and similar towns.

While the Rock Creek area is the present focal point of development, the remaining portion of the Big Dry should be carefully evaluated to determine whether it will better serve the residents. Considerable interest has been evidenced in the Nelson and Timber Creek sites, due to the somewhat more protected water. Boat access and related camping would, of course, be the primary type of development.

Development would be contingent upon construction of suitable access roads as a forerunner to the remainder of the construction.

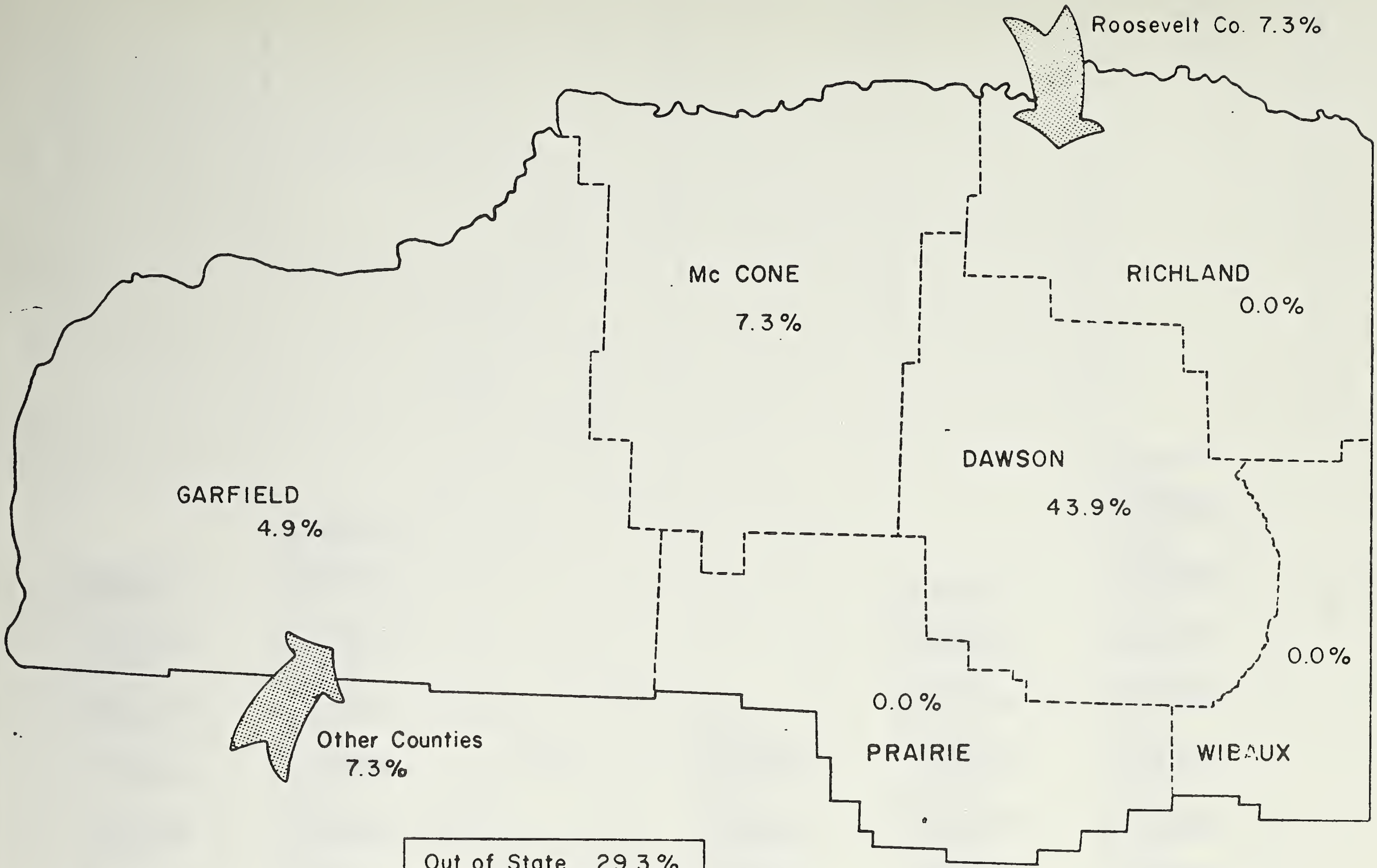
PLANNING REGION 2

Frequency of Participation in Selected Outdoor Recreation Activities by Montana Residents - Yearly Average



The above percentages represent an activity's portion of all recreation time.

ORIGIN OF PARTIES RECREATING IN PLANNING REGION 2


Roosevelt Co. 7.3%
Mc CONE
7.3%
RICHLAND
0.0%
DAWSON
43.9%
GARFIELD
4.9%
0.0%
0.0%
PRAIRIE
WIBAUX
Other Counties
7.3%

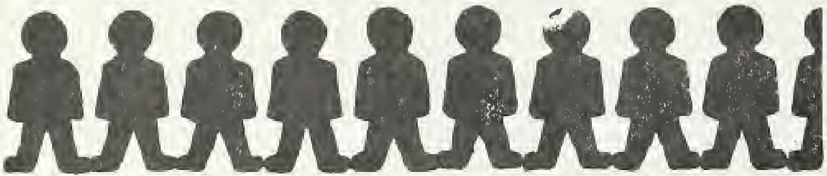
Out of State	29.3%
In State	70.7%

PLANNING REGION 2

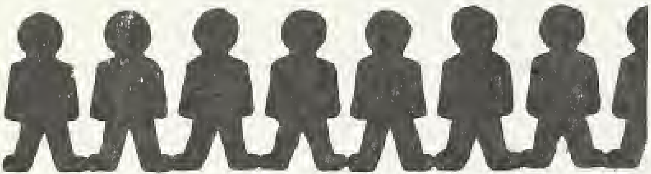
Leisure Time Activities Engaged in by Montana Residents - Yearly Average

Each man equals 2 responses

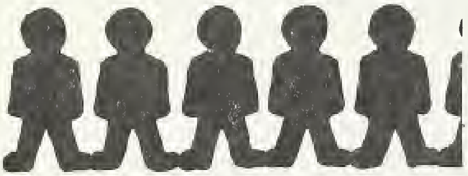
Indoor spectator activities (18.8)



Social activities (14.8)

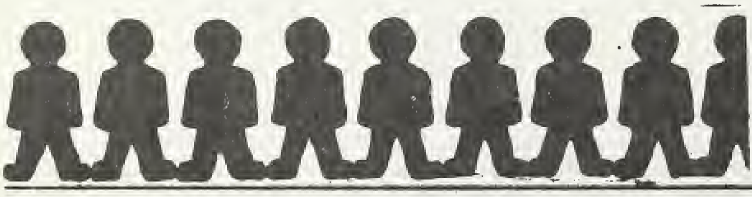


Indoor play activities (10.4)



Self improvement activities (3.3)

Home related activities (17.4)

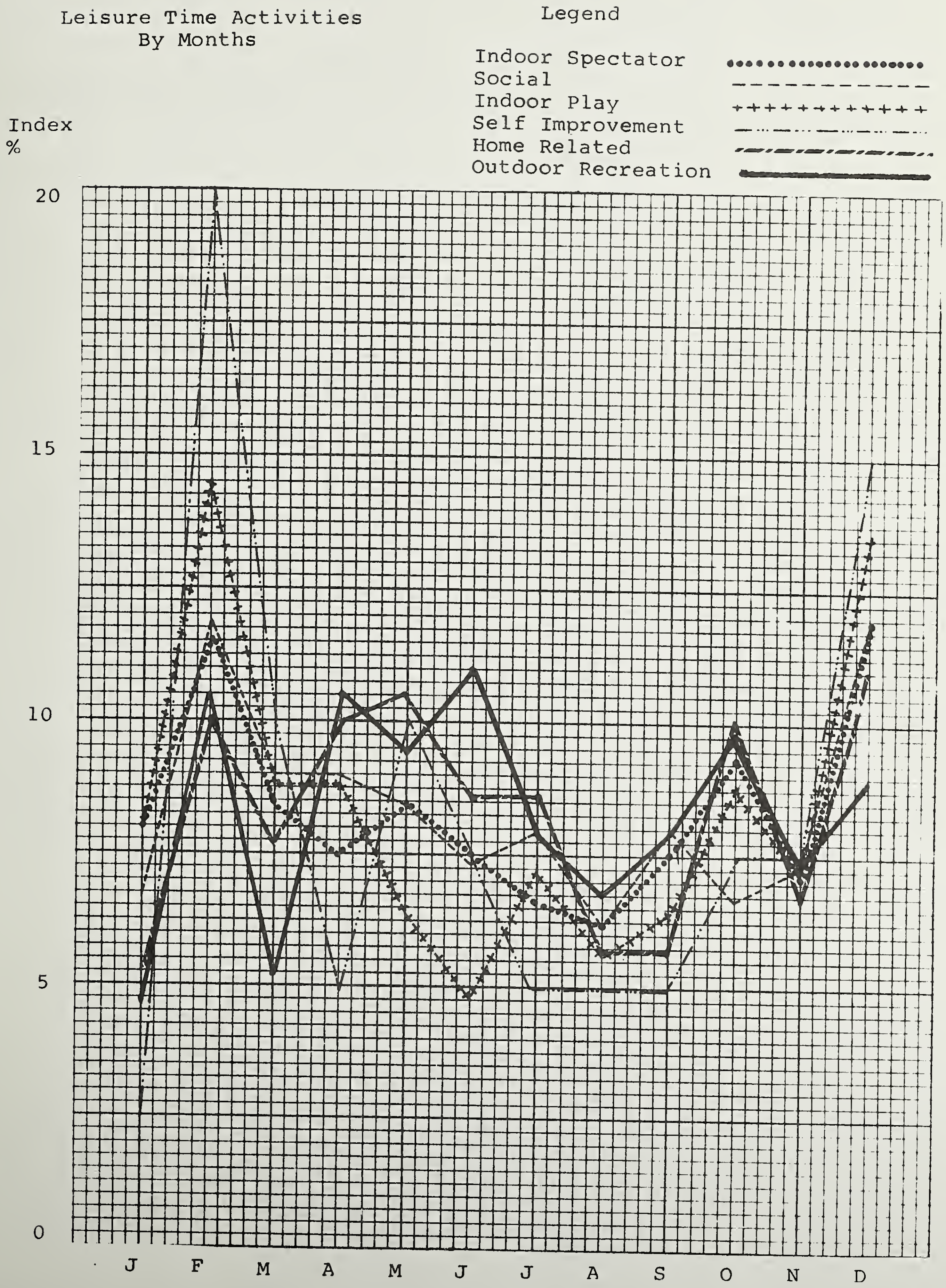


Outdoor recreation (15.9)

Above numbers indicate the average monthly responses from surveyed residents in the planning region.

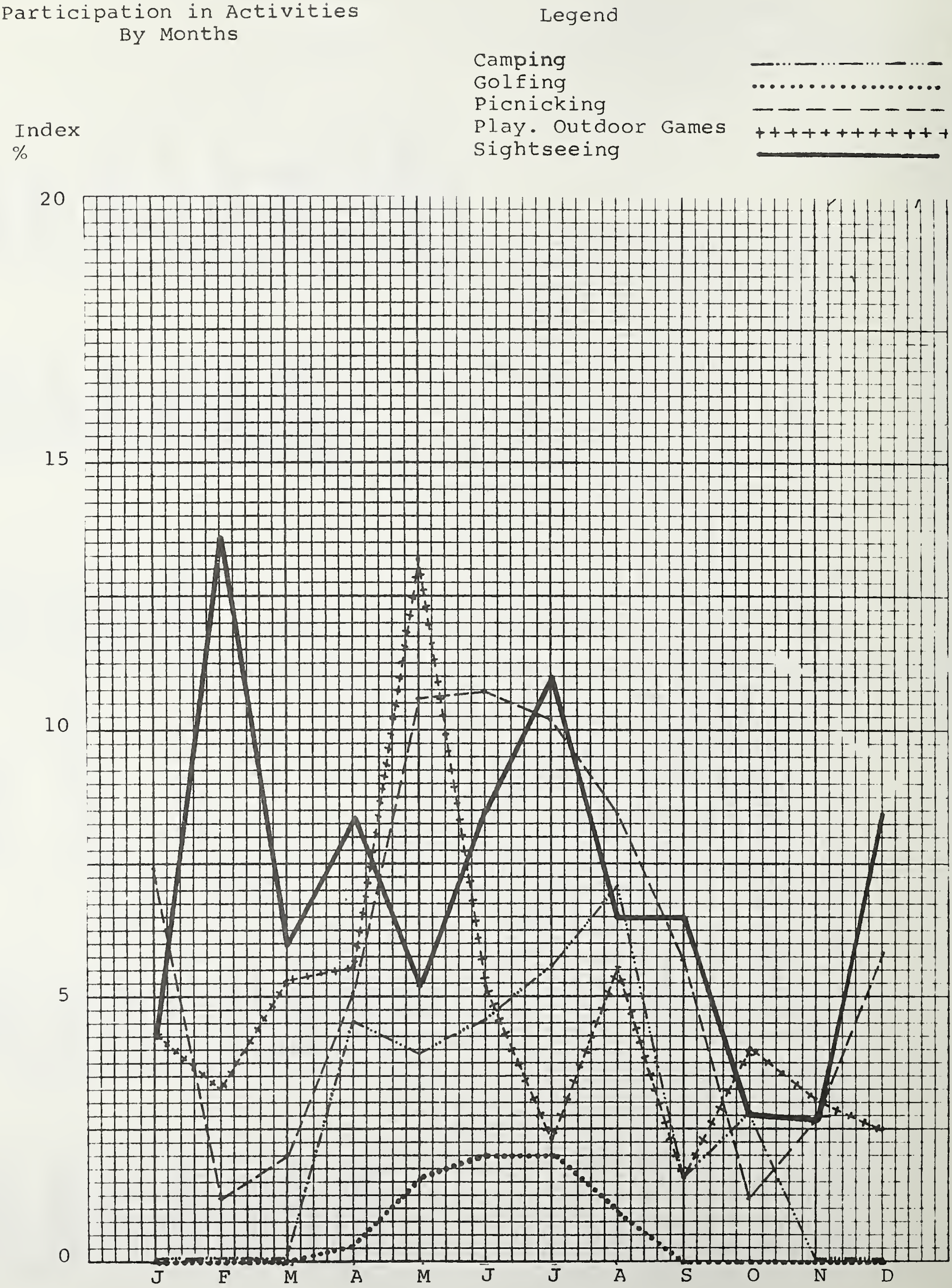
PLANNING REGION 2

Leisure Time Activities
By Months



PLANNING REGION 2

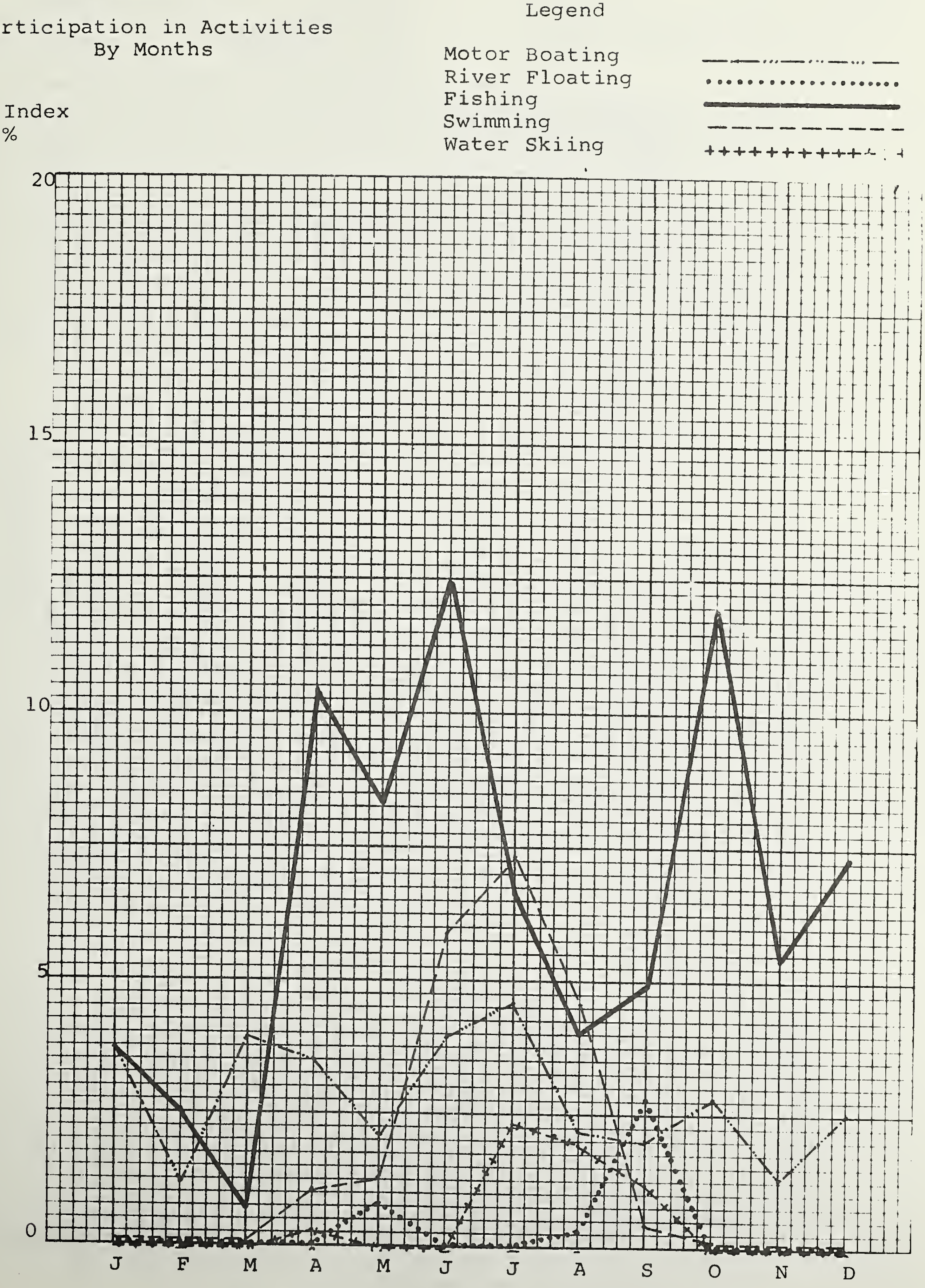
Participation in Activities
By Months



Activities Concentrated in One Area

PLANNING REGION 2

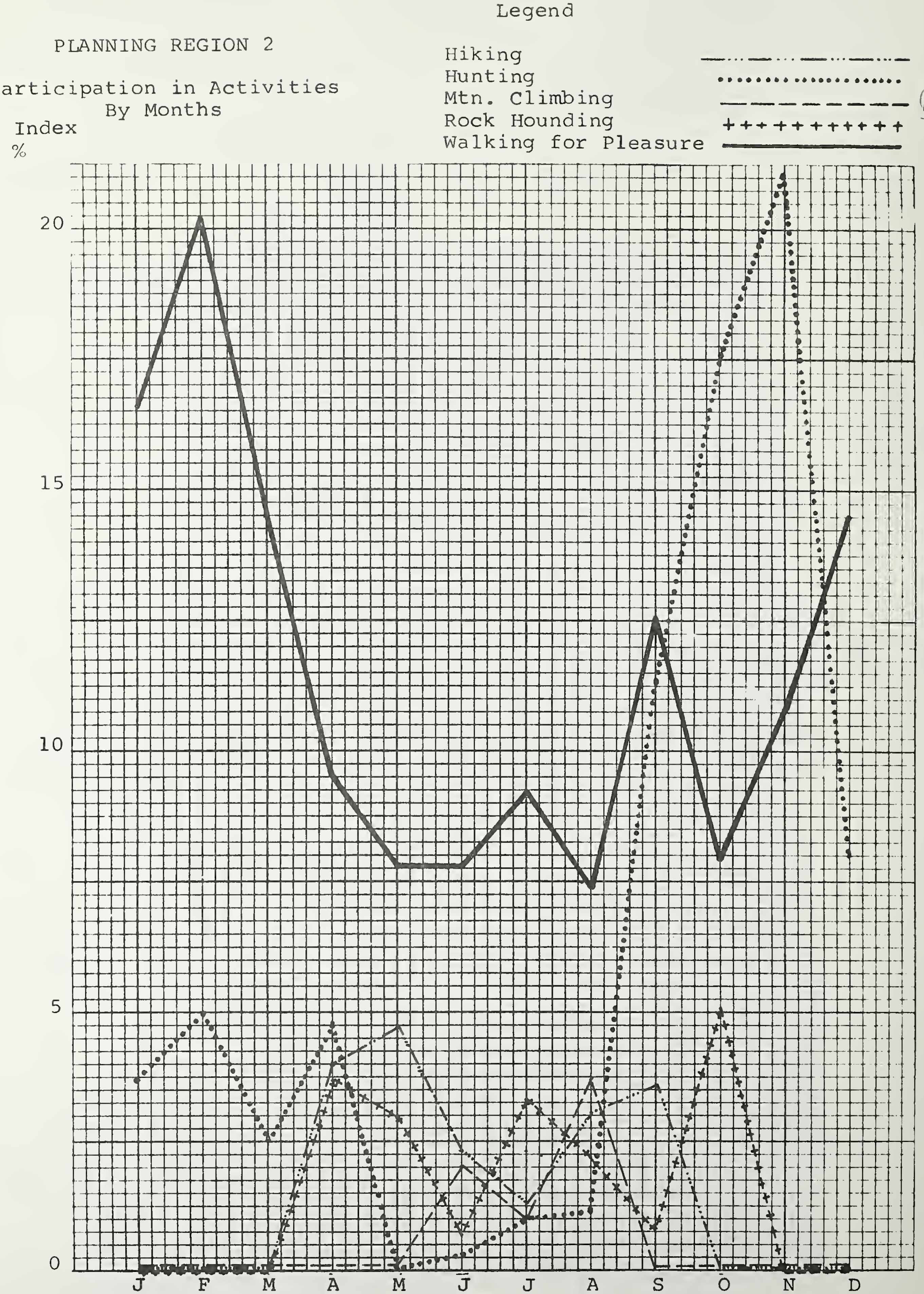
Participation in Activities
By Months



Water Oriented Activities

PLANNING REGION 2

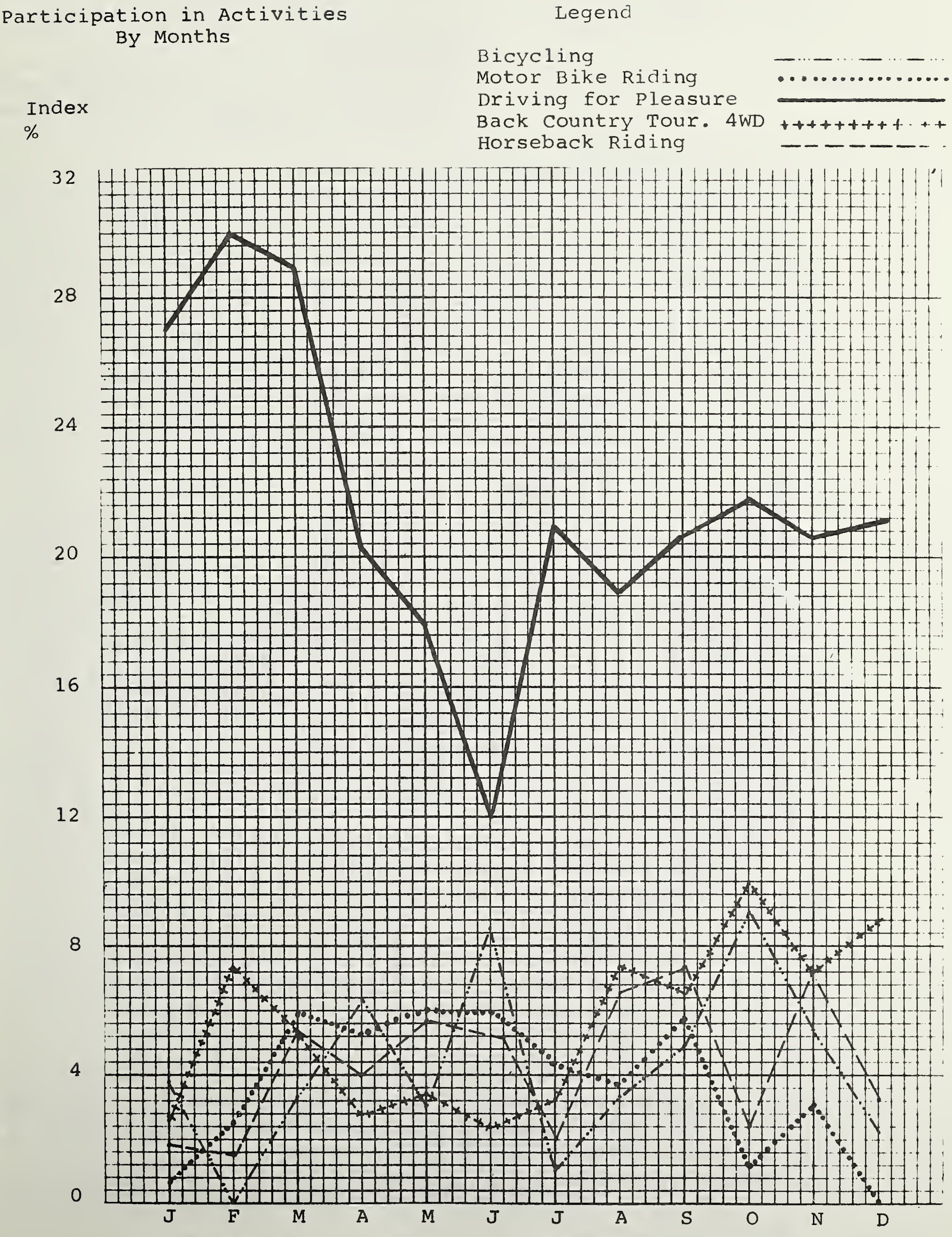
Participation in Activities
By Months



Traveling Activities w/wo Vehicle

PLANNING REGION 2

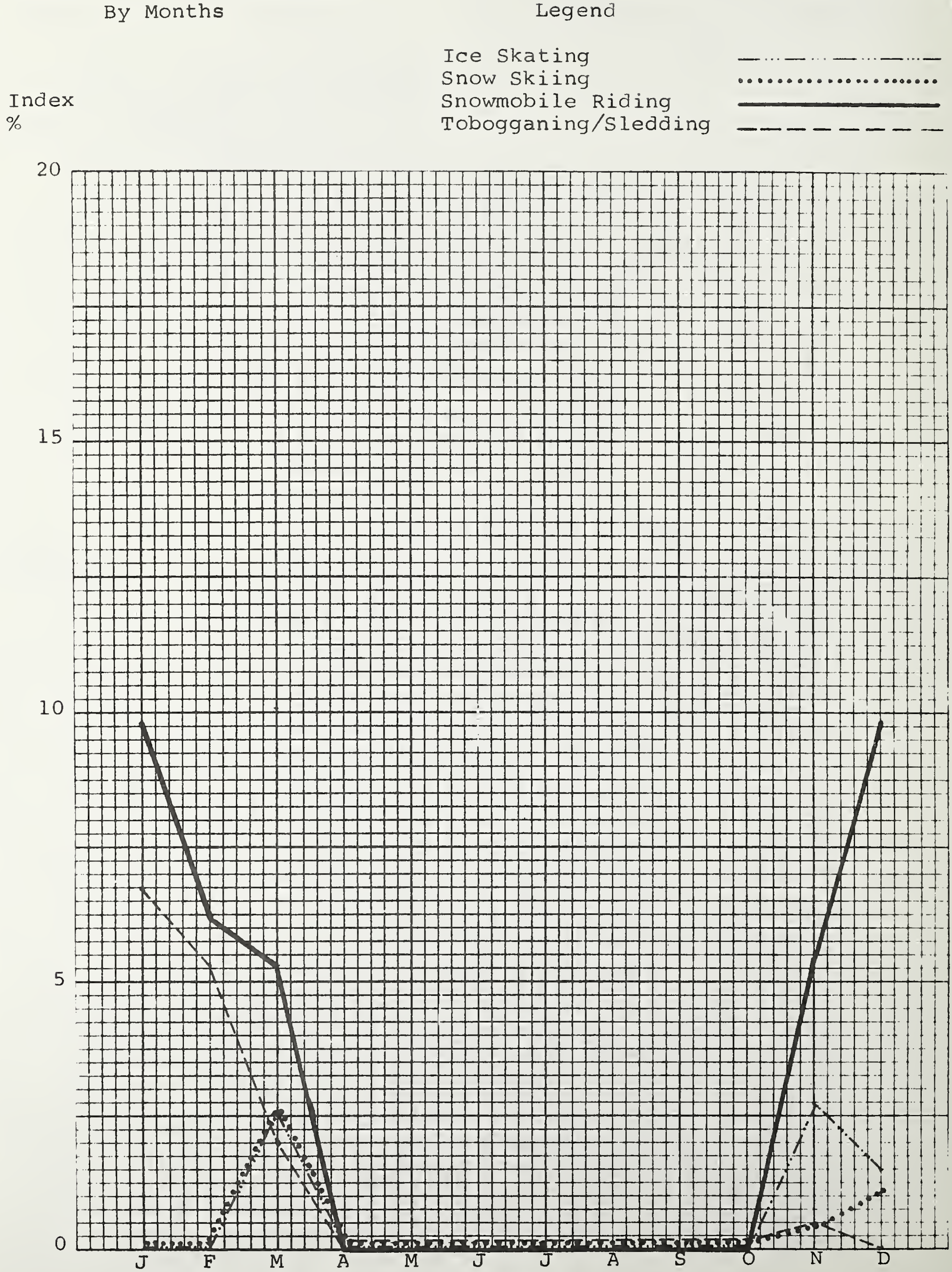
Participation in Activities
By Months



Traveling Activities - Vehicle Needed

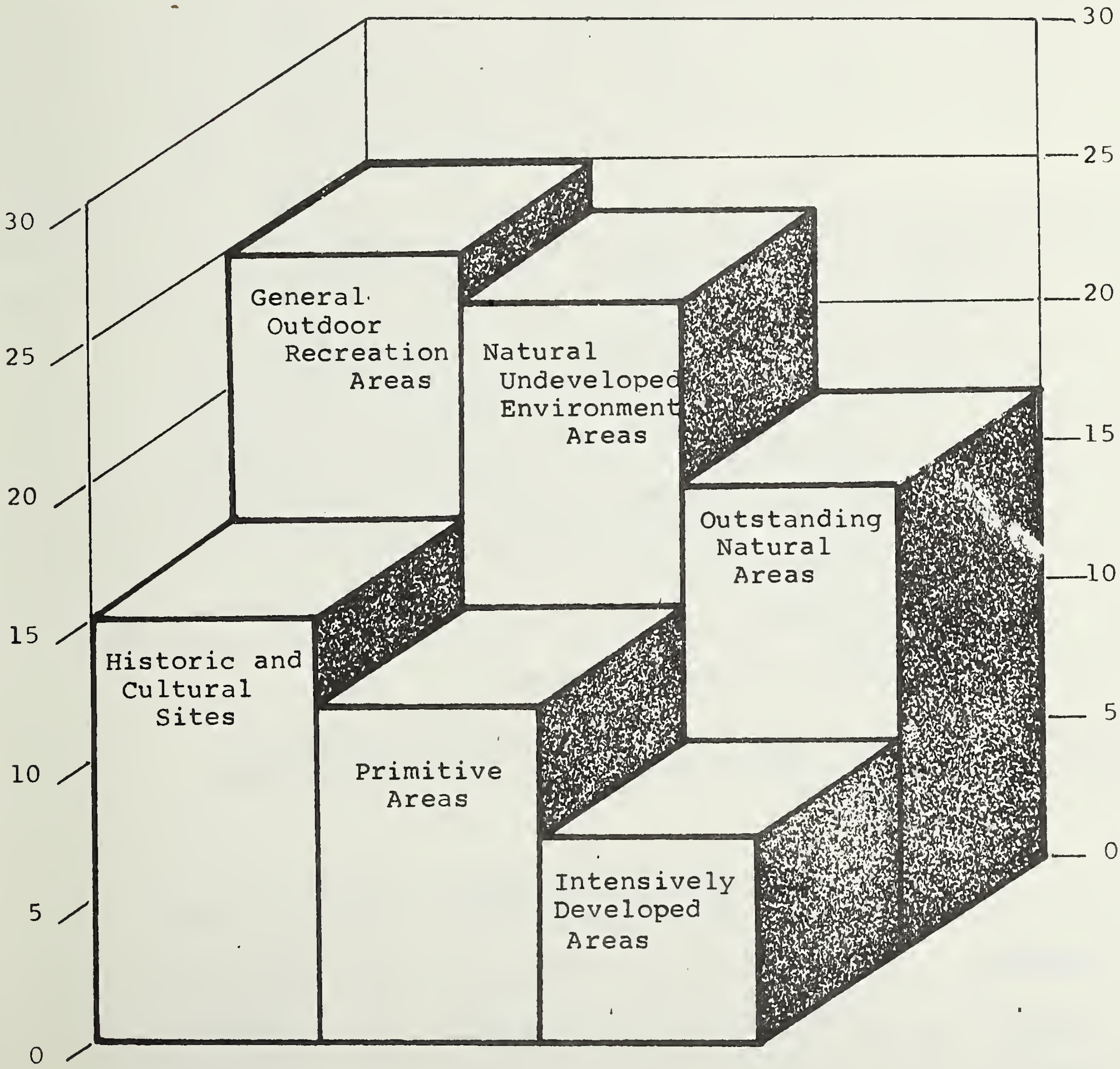
PLANNING REGION 2

Participation in Activities
By Months



PLANNING REGION 2

eferences for Selected Types of Recreation Areas by Montana Residents
Yearly Totals



Numbers indicate a weighted percent based on the number of responses to first, second, and third preferences.

The following table tabulates facilities available for recreation in the municipalities of Glendive, Sidney, and Terry.

MUNICIPAL FACILITIES

MUNICIPALITIES	1970 POPULATION	1972 PARK ACREAGE	Golf	Swimming Pool	Tennis	Multi-Purpose Courts	Baseball or Softball	Football	Children's Playgrounds	Large All Purpose Playfields	Picnic Areas	Designated Bike Trails	Indoor Recreation Centers	Facilities for the Handicapped	Special Accommodations for the Handicapped
Glendive	6,305	42	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x		
	Facility Needs:			N1								N	N2	N	N
Sidney	4,543	45	x	x			x	x	x						
	Facility Needs:			N	N					N		N			
Terry	870	4		x	x	x	x		x		x				
	Facility Needs:		N									N		N	
	Facility Needs:														
	Facility Needs:														
	Facility Needs:														
	Facility Needs:														

1. Improvements
2. At high school and Dawson College

Recreation and parks expenditures, which include money for maintenance operation, personnel, acquisition, and development are tabulated below:

MUNICIPAL EXPENDITURES

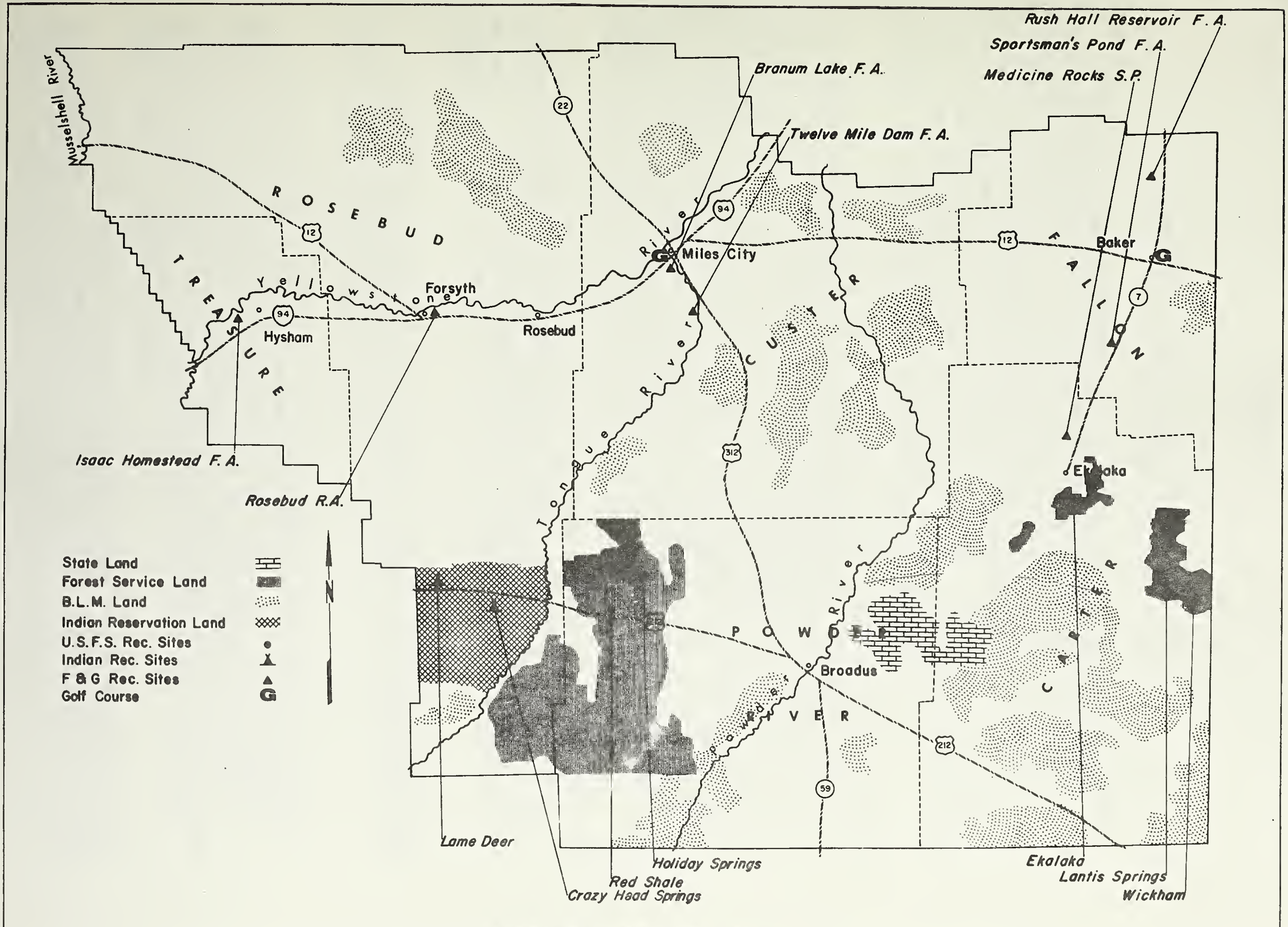
	F. Y. 1970	F. Y. 1971	F. Y. 1972
Glendive	$ 98,460	$89,616	$63,502
Sidney	37,150	43,197	44,850
Terry	5,900	7,700	7,722

Glendive indicates a high priority for the development of an indoor recreation center, a skating rink, an archery range and a firearms range.

A cooperative agreement between the school system and the city government has resulted in increased recreation opportunity in Glendive. But state level assistance in the form of funding is required to develop Eyer Memorial Park. The Glendive parks and recreation department is in the process of hiring a recreation director and staff thereby expanding recreational opportunity in the area. As in many towns and cities, the lack of money on the local level is a major problem.

Sidney has indicated a need for planning assistance from the state, and is experiencing a definite request for a senior citizen program. Land acquisition and the means to implement acquisition is considered a major problem.

Terry's highest priority is provision of facilities for the handicapped. They have available land for which assistance is needed in developing; assistance is also needed to explain the B.O.R. program to the town council and how and where it can be used. Developing a long range plan and inadequate funding are the major problems for Terry. Present park and recreation facilities need improvement.


Rush Hall Reservoir F. A.
Sportsman's Pond F. A.
Medicine Rocks S.P.
Branum Lake F. A.
Twelve Mile Dam F. A.
Musselshell River
ROSEBUD
TREASURE
CUSTER
FALLON
CARTER
POWDER RIVER
Yellowstone
River
Tongue River
Powder River
Miles City
Forsyth
Hysham
Rosebud
Baker
Ekalaka
Broadus
12
94
22
312
7
212
59
Isaac Homestead F. A.
Rosebud R.A.
State Land
Forest Service Land
B.L.M. Land
Indian Reservation Land
U.S.F.S. Rec. Sites
Indian Rec. Sites
F & G Rec. Sites
Golf Course
G
N
Lame Deer
Holiday Springs
Red Shale
Crazy Head Springs
Ekalaka
Lantis Springs
Wickham

PLANNING REGION 3

REGION 3

SUMMARY OF MAJOR RECREATION PROBLEMS

There has been comparatively little recreation development in the region despite the presence of various resources with recreation potential. As with other regions in the eastern portion of the state, the heavier concentrations of residents are along the Yellowstone Valley, with the remainder broadly and thinly dispersed. Only along the Yellowstone River is the population and the recreational resource closely related, and additional recreational access is a significant need here. Strategic location of these access points would serve the highway traveler as well as the communities situated along the valley.

The several units of the Custer Forest, major resources of the region have several excellent campgrounds. However, additional camping opportunity is needed as well as designated trails and basic utilities in strategic locations. There are large blocks of public domain lands containing areas of scenic interest. However, lack of access roads and lack of boundary delineation are obstacles to use. Since most of these are used for grazing, potential conflicts can arise in this respect also. While most of the use of these areas would relate to dispersed camping in some form, the designation of certain base campsites containing basic sanitation and utilities would be an assist for those using the area for an extended period of time.

Access for hunting is becoming more limited in given areas. Landowners, wishing to reduce the impact of larger numbers of hunters, are inclined to limit the numbers and to shorten the season. A study is in order that a program may be devised to improve the conditions for both the private owner and the recreationist.

Recreational use of the Tongue River is currently limited by a lack of designated access points. The scenic qualities and the floating opportunities should be made more available to the public through additional access.

While there are many excellent farm ponds, many of which provide fishing, there is a need for small reservoirs of 100 or more acres in size on the intermittent streams and drainages. These would provide the added water sports currently lacking in much of the region. Construction of such reservoirs on public lands would reduce costs to the public and in some cases would provide attractive environmental areas as well if they were built on forested lands.

While the region abounds in open space and opportunity for dispersed use, the designation of areas most suitable for given activities is a general need in the region. For visitors to the region, unfamiliar with the vast uncharted expanses, the need is especially noted. Altogether, the attractions and beauty of this part of what was the old west are perhaps too little known and appreciated by the citizens of the state.

There is a need for group camps to serve both adult and youth in the region. Renovation of existing camps such as Camp Needmore would provide for this to some extent.

For the residents of the Northern Cheyenne Tribal Reservation, recreational needs are especially critical, particularly for the youngsters. Facilities of all kinds and programs for recreational development are a major need.

The climatic conditions and lack of woodlands for shade, screening and shelter are factors in development here. Developments must compensate to some degree for this by providing some shelter, as for example at picnic areas. A more comfortable use of these facilities is important for those who are elderly, less capable, or perhaps handicapped.

The potential for damage to recreational resources from extensive strip mining for coal is a matter of intense concern within the region and throughout the state as well. The matter is currently receiving thorough consideration by the legislative assembly in session and it is anticipated that several legislative enactments will be forthcoming which will have a bearing on this matter.

In general, there are very attractive and desirable recreation resources in this region. However, key developments and facilities are needed to realize the full potential of the area.

REGION 3

GEOGRAPHIC, POPULATION, AND HISTORIC CHARACTERISTICS

More than any other region in Montana, the southeastern counties still evoke the characteristics and traditions of the old west, with Miles City, the focal point, often referred to as the cowboy capital of the nation. The heritage and traditions of the cattle empires are preserved both in the Range Riders Museum in that city and in the daily activities on the many ranching enterprises still in operation.

While the dominant characteristic is the open space and the sense of vast distances, the region includes several significant variations of geography and terrain. There are four separate sub units of the Custer National Forest, one of them of large size. Flat or rolling prairies, rough breaks, badlands, broad river flood plains and low hills in the southern half, characterize this region. The natural vegetation is composed of undifferentiated grassland, sagebrush and saltbush areas, and ponderosa pine open woodland forest. The open pine forest interspersed with grass meadows is located mostly in the hilly region in the south and western part of Region 3. Deciduous trees, cottonwoods, ash, box elder, and willows occupy the stream flood plains in this region.

Water resources for recreation in this region are extremely limited with the Yellowstone River being the most significant river in the area. The Tongue River also provides a considerable amount of recreation opportunity.

The climate in Region 3 is characterized by low winter temperatures with a wide range of temperatures from winter to summer. Rainfall reaches its maximum in the spring and summer.

The regional population, according to the 1970 official census, is 28,143 persons with county total as indicated below:

REGION 3 POPULATION DISTRIBUTION

County	Persons
Carter	1,956
Custer	12,174
Fallon	4,050
Powder River	2,862
Rosebud	6,032
Treasure	1,069
Region Total	28,143

Most of the population is concentrated in the Miles City area (9,023 persons) and to a considerably lesser degree along the Yellowstone River. Baker has a small concentration also (2,584 persons). Regionally 41.3%, 11,607 persons, are urban area residents. Minority group representation is high in Rosebud County. American Indians account for 30.2% of the total population for Rosebud County. In the region this group accounts for 6.5% of the total population. This region has generally lost population since 1960 as have most of the eastern regions. Carter County is down 22%, Treasure down 21%, Custer down 8%, Rosebud down 3%, with exceptions, Fallon up 1% and Powder River up 15%. The two exceptions are probably due to the influx of persons associated with the rapidly expanding coal industry and also the oil industry.

Region 3 is served by rail, air transportation with a major airport at Miles City, and highways with Interstate 94 traversing the area by way of Miles City and Forsyth.

The economy of the region is primarily agricultural with livestock ranching predominating. Much of the land is too dry and rough for extensive cultivation. Wholesale-retail trade is also important in the towns. The future of the regions economy may entail a much greater involvement with the coal industry as extensive bituminous coal fields underlie much of the region. Development of the coal industry here will have a great impact on the region's environment and recreation picture.

Public land in Region 3 accounts for only a fair amount of all land in the region. The following table indicates the percentage of public land in each county in this region.

PUBLIC LAND IN REGION 3*

County	Percentage	Square Miles
Carter	35.3	1,165
Custer	20.0	755
Fallon	18.3	298
Powder River	35.5	1,167
Rosebud	16.1	806
Treasure	7.8	78
	23.7	4,269

* Does not include local government land

This public land is administered with major public land holdings as follows:

PUBLIC LAND ADMINISTRATION - REGION 3

Agency	Land (acres)
Federal	
Bureau of Land Management	1,496,039
U. S. Forest Service	527,172
Bureau of Sport Fisheries & Wildlife	168
Total	2,023,379
State	
Department of State Lands (not including state forest)	705,296
Montana Fish and Game Department	1,135
Total	706,431
Indian Reservation Land	
Northern Cheyenne Reservation	241,000
Local	
Community Parks	240
Custer County, Woodruff Park	76

Regional Points of Interest

Miles City

Cow capital of the west with an annual mid-May bucking horse sale.

Coalstrip

Largest strip coal mine in the world

Northern Cheyenne Indian Reservation

Craft center at Lame Deer and at St. Labre Mission in Ashland

Oil Fields at Bell Creek

Medicine Rocks State Park

220 acres of eroded sandstone formations give a unique atmosphere to this geologically oriented park. There are exhibits nearby at Ekalaka in connection with the schools.

Custer Forest

Historic Sites

This region's history is rich in sites related to the early fur trade and the Indian--U. S. Army warfare of the late 1800's. Both early fur trading forts and later military forts lined the Yellowstone River and numerous battles were fought against the Sioux and Cheyenne by Cole, Miles, Reynolds, and others of the U. S. Army.

Below is a summary chart listing the major historic sites in Region 3.

HISTORIC SITES IN REGION 3

Historic Site	County	Significant Dates	Significance
Mill Iron Ranch	Carter	1885	Agriculture
Buffalo Rapids	Custer	1879	Commerce
Cole's Skirmish of 9/4/1865	Custer	1865	Military
Cole's Fight of 9/5/1865	Custer	1865	Military
Fort Keogh	Custer	1880's	Military
Miles's City Historic District	Custer	1880's	Agriculture
Miles's Residence, Miles City	Custer	1877	Architecture
Seventh Calvary Fight on the Yellowstone	Custer	1873	Military
Tongue River Cantonment	Custer	1876	Military
Cole's Fight of Sept. 8, 1865	Powder River	1865	Military
Cole's Fight of Sept. 10, 1865	Powder River	1865	Military
Powder-Yonkee Site	Powder River	mid-prehist.	Prehist.-abor.
Reynold's Fight on the Powder River	" "	1876	Hist. abor.
Baldwin's Fight March 9, 1880	Rosebud	1880	Military
Camp Merritt	Rosebud	1884	Hist. abor.
Fort Alexander	Rosebud	1842	Commerce
Fort Sarpy I	Rosebud	1850	Commerce
Headchief-Young Mule Fight	Rosebud	1890	Historic-aboriginal
Lame Deer Fight	Rosebud	1877	Historic-aboriginal
Miles's Fight on the Tongue River	Rosebud	1877	Military
St. Labre Mission	Rosebud	1887	Historic-aboriginal
Tongue River Agency	Rosebud	1884	Historic-aboriginal
Fort Van Buren	Rosebud	1835	Commerce
Big Horn Post	Treasure	1824	Commerce
Fort Cass	Treasure	1832	Commerce
Fort Manuel Lisa	Treasure	1807	Commerce
Fort Pease	Treasure	1875	Historic-aboriginal
Fort Sarpy II	Treasure	1857	Commerce
Seventh Ca. Fight of August 11, 1873	Treasure	1873	Military

CHARACTERISTICS OF RECREATION USE

Leisure Time in Region 3

More Montana residents of Region 3 engaged in indoor spectator activities than in any other leisure time activities.

The second most popular group of activities was outdoor recreation, only slightly more popular than home-related activities which included gardening, shop work, etc. Outdoor recreation activities were engaged in year-round by Region 3 residents and participation was fairly consistent throughout the year, with slight decreases in June and October.

(For a more complete graphic account, see Appendix .)

The Characteristics and Viewpoints of the Park User in Region 3

(Note: Region 3 data obtained for this section is based on only 14 survey returns; with a sample of this size, the validity of the section must not be considered definitive.

Montana residents were the greatest users of facilities in Region 3. They accounted for 78.6% of those recreationists surveyed in Region 3. About 43% of the Montana residents came from Fallon County and 29% from Rosebud County indicating that most users originate within the region. The most frequent party size encountered was six persons. The local forest areas are very popular with nearby residents who appreciate the recreation available in the hills and woodlands. Most recreation was on a day use basis. The reasons most frequently given for choosing a recreation site were first, because the site was near home and second, because it was a site where a specific activity could be engaged in. Facility conditions were rated generally below state averages, while other environmental factors were average. 29% indicated a need for additional activities or facilities at selected areas in Region 3.

Picnicking was one of the most popular activities which the park user engaged in. Resting and relaxing was next and walking for pleasure was third. Preferences stated by these recreationists correlated perfectly with participation.

Implications

1. Few out of staters were recreating in this region. Most users, being local, were accustomed to the areas.

2. Group, day-use activities predominate in Region 3, indicating a need for more facilities of this type.

3. Nearness to home was an important factor in choice of recreation areas for these users, indicating sites developed close to population areas would receive adequate use. Activities available at these sites was also an important factor in choice of an area.

4. A need for adequate facilities was indicated as well as better maintenance of those facilities.

5. A majority of users wish well-maintained scenic recreation areas close to home with a variety of activities available. Emphasis should be placed on picnic facilities and facilities for passive recreation such as walkways, rest areas etc.

The Montana Resident

Characteristics of the resident respondents can be found in the Appendix. These data include the respondents marital status, sex, age, household status, employment, vacation allowance, available time and general health.

Tables following, indicates the frequency of participation in various activities by those surveyed and is a measure of their popularity in Region 3.

Fair correlation existed between recreation activities engaged in and those indicated as most preferred. Driving for pleasure ranked first both in participation and preference. Walking for pleasure rated second most popular both in participation and preference. Sightseeing, closely related to driving for pleasure, and fishing both were high in preference and participation but hunting was the third most popular activity preferred even though it was not engaged in nearly so much as other activities.

In water-oriented activities, fishing is by far the most popular, and peaks in May and August. Snowmobiling is the most popular winter activity, sightseeing is popular throughout the year; picnicking throughout the summer. Walking for pleasure peaks in early spring and early fall, and driving for pleasure is quite consistent through the year, dropping off somewhat as late summer approaches. (For a detailed graphic account see Appendix.)

Activity popularity for children was again centered on bicycling first, playing outdoor games second, with driving for pleasure (with adult), horseback riding and snowmobile riding following.

Residents of Region 3 stated they most preferred natural undeveloped environment areas with few facilities. General outdoor recreation areas were preferred nearly as much. Outstanding natural areas were the third choice. (See Appendix for further details.)

Implications

1. Facilities along roads, interpretive sites, and loop roads for driving for pleasure should be made available for Region 3 residents.

2. Other activities which should be planned for in Region 3 are walking for pleasure, sightseeing, fishing, backcountry touring, on established roads, hunting, and snowmobiling.

3. Children activities which should receive more attention are bicycling and playing outdoor games.

4. Residents of Region 3 favor outdoor recreation activities which center around natural areas plus general outdoor recreation areas providing some developed facilities. These areas should be relatively close to population areas serving day use activities.

Problems and Potentials in Recreation for Region 3

Driving for pleasure heads the list in both participation and preference for an activity in Region 3. Sightseeing closely associated with driving also ranks very high in activities engaged in. Driving for pleasure entails frequent points of interest, and rest stops and is enhanced by a circuitous route. Potential in this region is average for scenic and natural areas to drive to and within, with the Tongue and Yellowstone River and the Custer National Forest unit near Ashland having the greatest potential. These areas would serve the concentration of people near Miles City as well as other regional residents. A better secondary all weather road might open up some possibilities. A deterrent to recreating in Custer National Forest is the lack of water bodies, (streams, lakes, etc.). There also seems to be a lack of picnic sites and other facilities for those who are driving for pleasure. There is a need for greater interpretation of historical and geological sights in this region but not so much as to destroy the environment.

There is potential for pleasant walking trails in the Custer National Forest. Other potential areas for walking trails are the Chalk Butte area near Ekalaka, and the Cheyenne Reservation.

Warm water fishing predominates as it does in much of the plains area. The Yellowstone River offers the most potential with the Tongue and Powder Rivers offering somewhat less potential. Milliron Reservoir near Ekalaka is in the planning stages and should provide a future fishing site. Poor roads into some fishing access areas are a problem. The Carbon Hills watershed project of the SCS east of Miles City may also provide some fishing when completed. Other sites offer potential in the future.

Backcountry touring has potential on some of the public lands, but restrictive controls to keep off-road travel to a minimum will undoubtedly be promulgated in the future. U. S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management land have the greatest potential areas to meet such a need.

Hunting is a prime recreation activity in Region 3 and it is indicated that residents would do more hunting if more areas were accessible to the hunter and if perhaps more time was available for the hunter. There is a tenuous relationship with some ranchers in the region which inhibits the use of some private land for hunting. Public land with access is open to hunting and is used to advantage. Hunting is very popular in this region to non-residents.

The popularity of picnicking is such that the better areas suitable for this activity should be obtained in conjunction with the interest of development for other related recreation. Rest stops with picnic facilities are again needed along highways. Some picnic facilities are in use presently at Medicine Rocks State Park and on Forest Service and BIA land, county and community parks, and the Yellowstone River area offers a further potential area.

Motor bike riding like backcountry touring will probably come under stricter control on public lands. There are presently enough roads and trails to meet the demand of motor bikers on public land. Noise continues to be a problem and is a detriment to viewing of wildlife.

The potential for bicycling is relatively low in Region 3 except within the towns. There is potential in the Yellowstone River area and perhaps in Custer National Forest, in connection with another development or point of interest.

Most horseback riding is done under private auspices and the private sector will likely continue to provide the greater part of the facilities for this activity.

Camping use is high at Red Shale Campground near Ashland, since it is the only major campground on the highway for many miles. There is further camping potential at other sites on

Custer National Forest. Units near Ekalaka receive moderate use, mostly from local residents. Camping facilities are also needed along the Yellowstone River for out-of-staters as well as residents. Camping should be developed in conjunction with other activities.

Swimming and motor boating are limited primarily to areas along the Yellowstone River and in community parks and the Tongue River. There will be some water-oriented activities available at a reservoir to be built between Miles City and Ekalaka. Potential for water sports in this region is low.

The Custer National Forest can also provide space for hiking and snowmobiling. The Miles City Pine Hills area and the forest near Ashland may get increasing use by snowmobilers from the Billings area as limitations are put into effect on areas near home. Limitations to snowmobiling here include sporadic snowfall and periodic warming trends leaving little snow.

There is opportunity for hiking at Medicine Rocks State Park and some designated trails could be developed at areas along the Yellowstone River.

Inventory of Facilities

Federal and State Recreation Facilities

In Region 3, the Montana Department of Fish and Game and the U. S. Forest Service are the major public agencies which presently provide facilities and land for recreation. To a lesser degree, some recreation is provided by the Northern Cheyenne Indian Reservation. Major areas with selected facilities are summarized below:

FEDERAL AND STATE RECREATION AREAS - REGION 3

Federal	Picnic Units	Camping Units	Swimming	Fishing	Boat Ramp
U. S. Forest Service as of March 1, 1974					
Custer N.F.					
Cow Creek	3	5	0	X	0
Ekalaka Park	2	7	0	0	0
Holiday Spring	3	0	0	0	0

Federal	Picnic Units	Camping Units	Swim-ming	Fish-ing	Boat Ramp
Custer N.F. (continued)					
Lantis Spring	2	5	0	0	0
Macnab Pond	0	4	0	X	0
Poker Jim Butte	3	0	0	0	0
Red Shale	3	13	0	0	0
Wickham Gulch	2	3	0	0	0
Total	18	37	0	2	0
State					
Montana Department of Fish and Game					
Branum Lake FAS	6	0	0	X	0
Isaac Homestead FAS	0	0	0	X	0
Medicine Rocks SP	5	15	0	0	0
Rosebud SRA	10	0	0	X	X
Rush Hall Res. FAS	0	0	0	X	0
Sportsman's Pond FAS	0	0	0	X	0
Twelve Mile Dam FAS	0	0	0	X	0
Total	21	15	0	6	1
Indian Reservations					
Lame Deer	3	5	0	0	0
Crazy Head Springs	3	5	X	X	0
Total	6	10	1	1	0
Total Selected Facilities, Region 3	45	62	1	9	1

MAJOR RECREATION RESOURCES

Custer National Forest

The several units of the Custer Forest offer significant recreation opportunity for the eastern portion of the state. The largest of these, the Ashland Division, located between Ashland and Broadus, has the potential for a recreation system, providing a variety of activities over a considerable area. Although lacking in water resources generally, the resource offers a forest environment, scenery, topographic and climatic relief and a general contrast to the remainder of the region. Because of the geographic location and the lack of population, it provides a distinct quality of solitude which will become of greater significance in the future. The Long Pines Division near Ekalaka also has similar attributes.

The U. S. Forest Service is doing extensive study on these areas in order to provide a plan for the recreation development of the various units. Although no funds are budgeted for development at this time, future development will take place.

Recreational Development

Two recreation developments in the Ashland Division, the Red Shale Campground and Holiday Springs Campground, already receive significant use. Red Shale Campground is the third heaviest used campground in the Black Hills to Ashland region. Considerable informal camping takes place at other than established areas and at this time has not been a major problem where the use is not concentrated. The area will not sustain great amounts of this use however, and future restraints are in order. Considerable emphasis on day use of the forest is planned. Historic, archeologic and natural science information will be featured in interpretive programs for day use. Trail systems connecting points of significance will become part of the overall plan of development.

The relatively high cost of development for large campgrounds will preclude for the foreseeable future any increase in this type of facility, leaving future available funds largely for day use development.

Medicine Rocks State Park

The park is a small but unique recreation resource located 11 miles north of Ekalaka. Primary attraction of the park are the highly unusual sandstone formations which figured in the legends and rituals of the aboriginal Indians. The weirdly shaped spirals, columns, archways and caves provide a fascinating background for the related activities of picnicking and camping. While there are no water resources for recreation at the park, it is a significant resource. In addition, the park designation assists in the preservation of a unique geographic feature, regardless of the recreational use associated with it.

The park is developed nearly to capacity in terms of good resource management, hence little addition in the way of facilities will be planned. A more extensive interpretive program with minor increased in picnicking are the extent of future development. The development concept is appropriate recreational use of a rather limited and fragile resource. It is not intended to serve as a supplier of sufficient picnic and camping needs for a given segment of population.

Tongue River

The river has a signficant amount of recreational potential which until recently was not broadly recognized. The increase in recreational use is primarily in the matter of floating, particulary in the area below the Twelve Mile Dam south of Miles City which is an increasingly favored area by the youngsters of the region. Sections of the river above the dam are used as well and use is anticipated to increase. Canoeing is a potential in the area below the Tongue River Dam which is located northeast of Decker. The first ten miles section is especially suitable, flowing through scenic canyons and some wooded bottomlands, altogether a picturesque area.

Fishing is increasingly popular and is capitalized upon with the introduction of small mouth bass below the Tongue River.

Fall hunting on the river is increasing and popular. Hunters float the river, seeking waterfowl and deer on the wooded islands and bottomlands, as well as the sharptail grouse.

Present public access consists of the Tongue River Fishing Access near the Twelve Mile Dam. In view of the increasing popularity additional access should be undertaken at strategic points along the river. River floating and canoeing will require access and egress points and sanitary accommodations.

Yellowstone River

The Yellowstone River, and its valley environment is a recreation resource of major significance to the region. It is the most densely populated area and is a main travel route for the out of region and out of state visitor as well.

Primary recreation resources at present on the river include the fishing access site near Hysham, in connection with the Game Management area, and the Rosebud State Park at Forsyth presently under development. While fishing is not exceptional on the Yellowstone, it is enjoyed and will have increased participation. River floating and boating are activities which are increasing in popularity everywhere, and this is anticipated on the Yellowstone as well. In addition, the river valley provides a change in surroundings, offering a woodland environment and relief from the warmer weather in summer. Camping and picnicking near water, regardless of fishing opportunity, is an activity enjoyed by many.

Floating and boating unlike fishing, requires both access and egress points including sanitation facilities. Camping and picnicking would be associated with these if they were significant enough in size. Such access sites are a need and the Yellowstone will continue to be studied for this purpose. Fall hunting for waterfowl and game animals is a further associated use in a region which has a definite preference for this activity.

Brannum Ponds

This is a small but popular fishing access site resource adjacent to Miles City. The pond was constructed by the Montana Fish and Game Department and is stocked regularly and a good fishery is maintained. It is developed to capacity at this time, however, minor enhancement of the facilities is feasible. The pond will withstand additional fishing pressure. The pond serves primarily the residents of the urban area adjoining plus users from through the region.

Public Domain Lands

There are several very large aggregations of land administered by the Bureau of Land Management in the southeast sector of the region. Four of these areas are exceptionally large blocks. These are grazing lands and consequently afford considerable hunting.

In addition to the hunting, the lands would be appreciated by recreationists who enjoy the solitude and spaciousness and the natural character of the resource. Viewing of wildlife is an activity increasing faster proportionately than hunting, and is done on a year around basis. Considerable driving for pleasure would be afforded as the region was made better known. The contrast in character with the forested regions of the state are a further aspect of recreational attraction, adding to the total spectrum of opportunity.

While some trail roads exist, an evaluation of possibilities for a propriated connections to both regulate the driving and to enhance the enjoyment might be undertaken.

Powder River

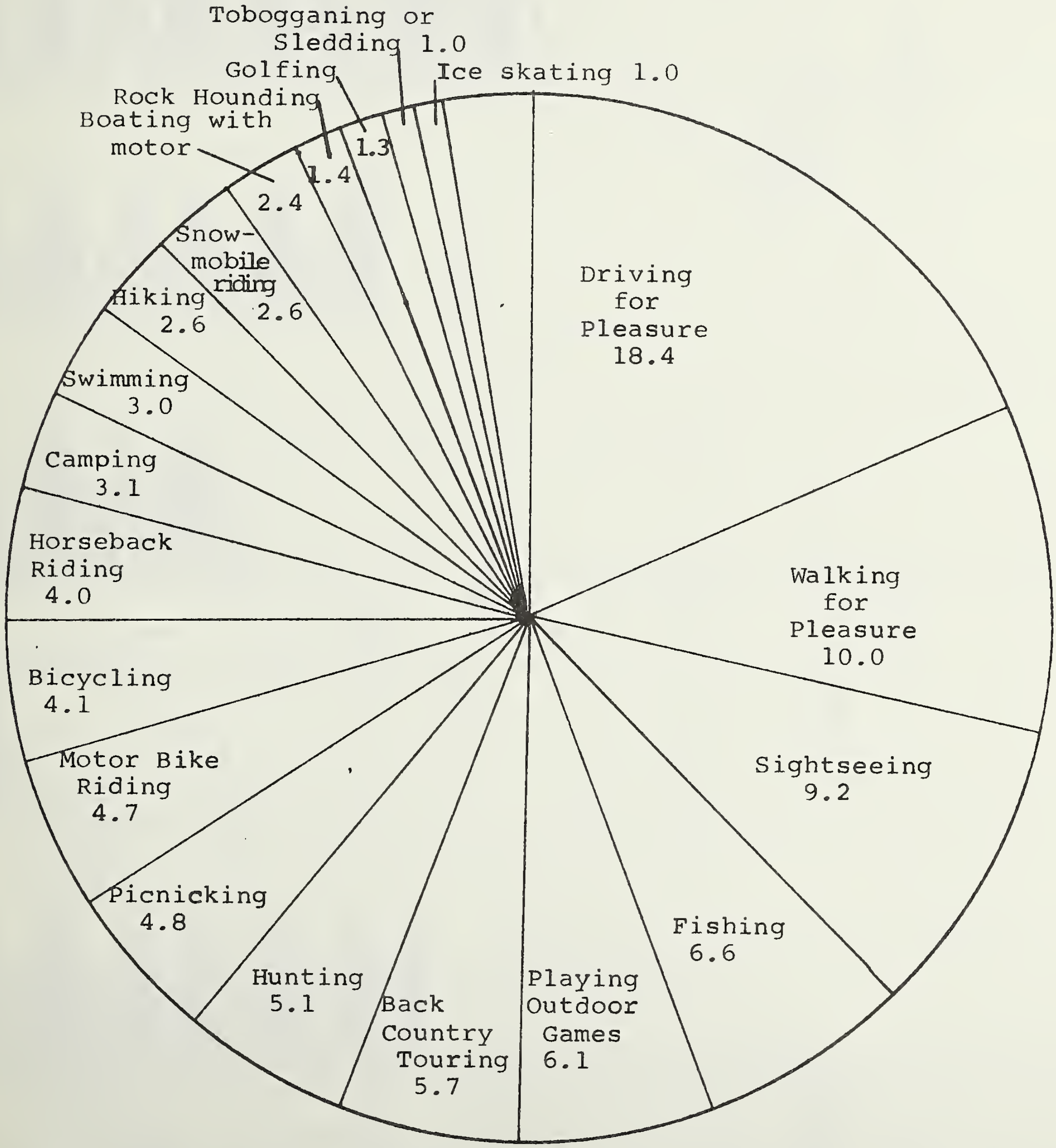
The Powder River is considered very low in recreation potential due to the very limited summer flow. Some fishing for catfish appears to be the singular recreational aspect at this time. No development would be contemplated.

Woodruff Park

Woodruff Park is a county owned recreation area located 12 miles east of Miles City. The area provides scenery, distant views of adjoining lands, plus related camping and picnicking. The area is developed to nearly capacity in terms of resource management, however, minor additions to the camp and picnic units would be feasible. The area is in need of a modern water system.

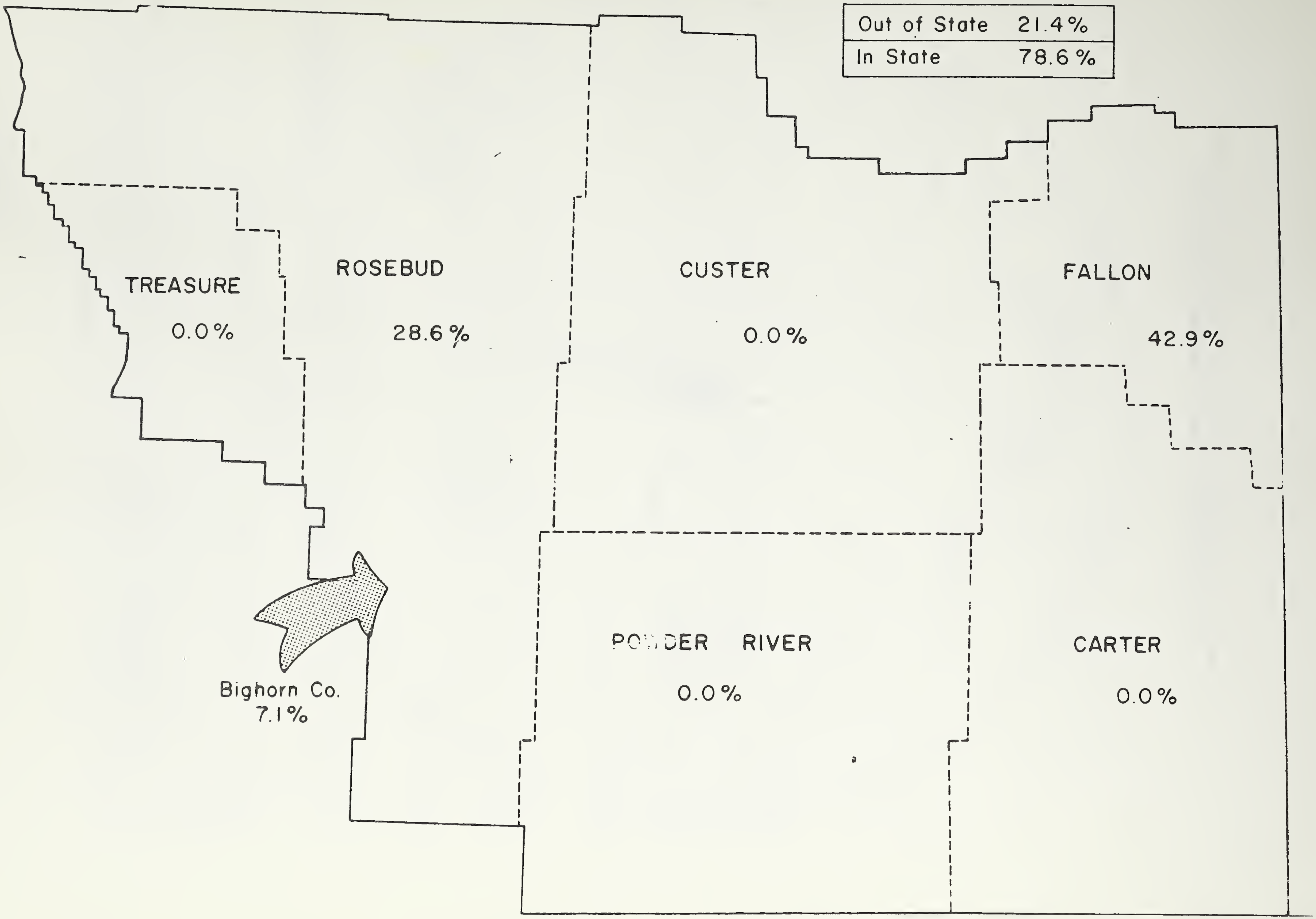
PLANNING REGION 3

Frequency of Participation in Selected Outdoor Recreation Activities by Montana Residents - Yearly Average



The above percentages represent an activity's portion of all recreation time.

ORIGIN OF PARTIES RECREATING IN PLANNING REGION 3

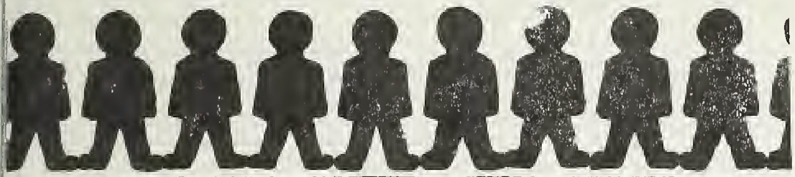

Out of State 21.4%
In State 78.6%
TREASURE
0.0%
ROSEBUD
28.6%
CUSTER
0.0%
FALLON
42.9%
Bighorn Co.
7.1%
POWDER RIVER
0.0%
CARTER
0.0%

PLANNING REGION 3

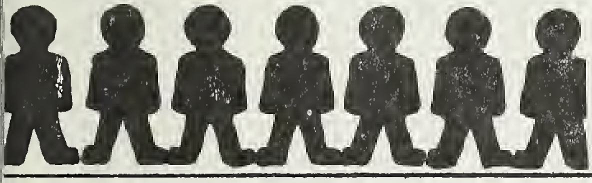
Leisure Time Activities Engaged in by Montana Residents - Yearly Average

Each man equals 2 responses

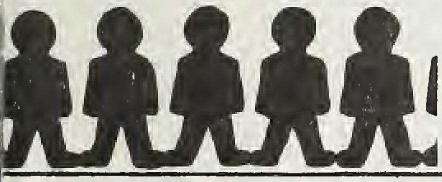
Indoor spectator activities (18.3)



Social activities (13.8)

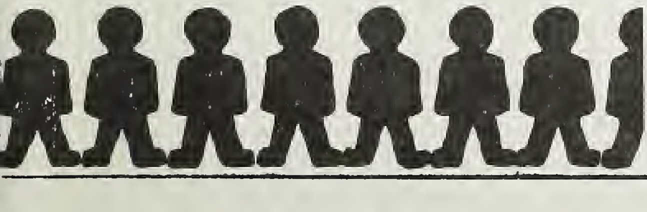


Indoor play activities (10.1)



Self improvement activities (4.0)

Home related activities (15.0)

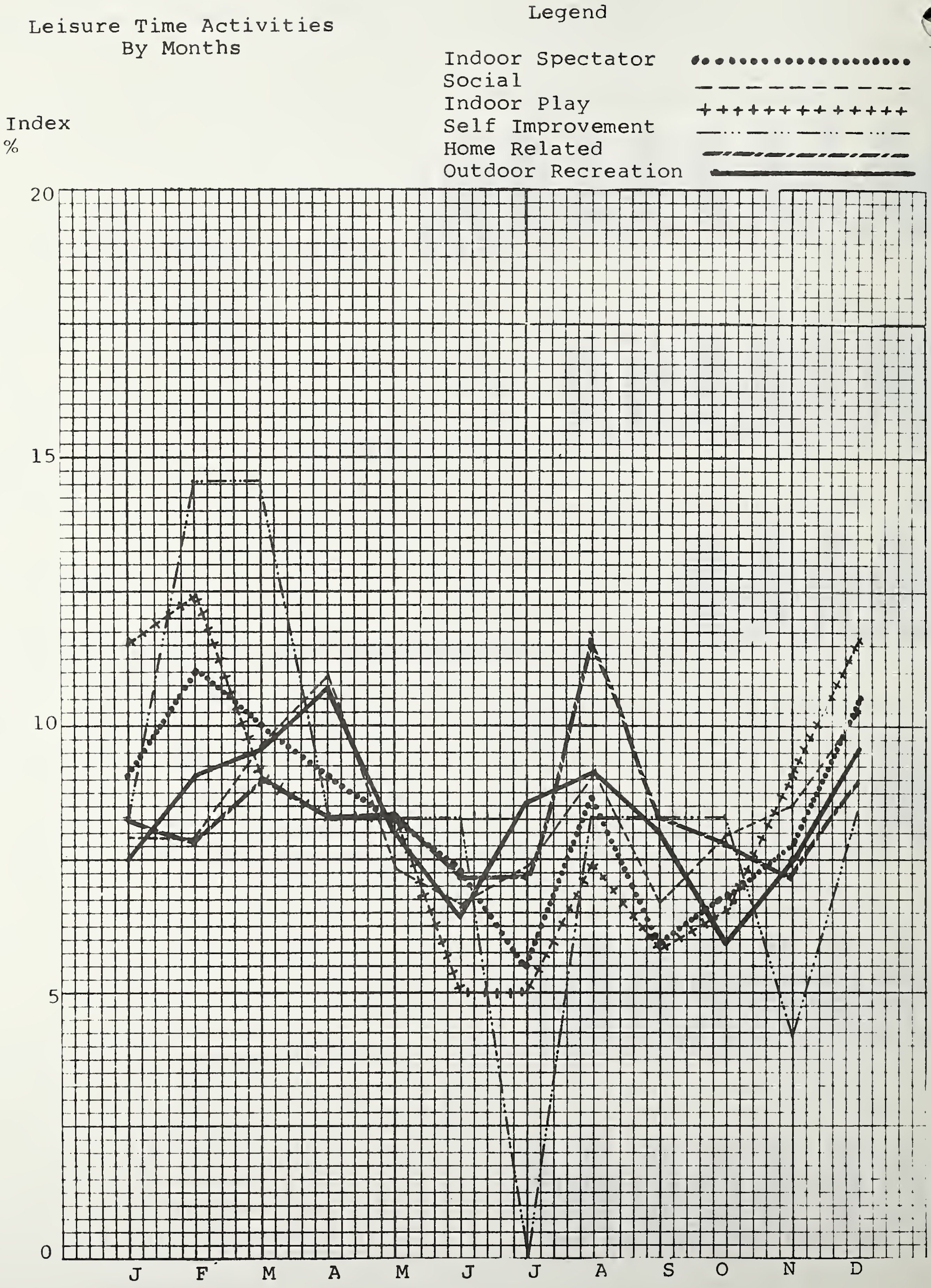


Outdoor recreation (15.6)

Above numbers indicate the average monthly responses from surveyed residents in the planning region.

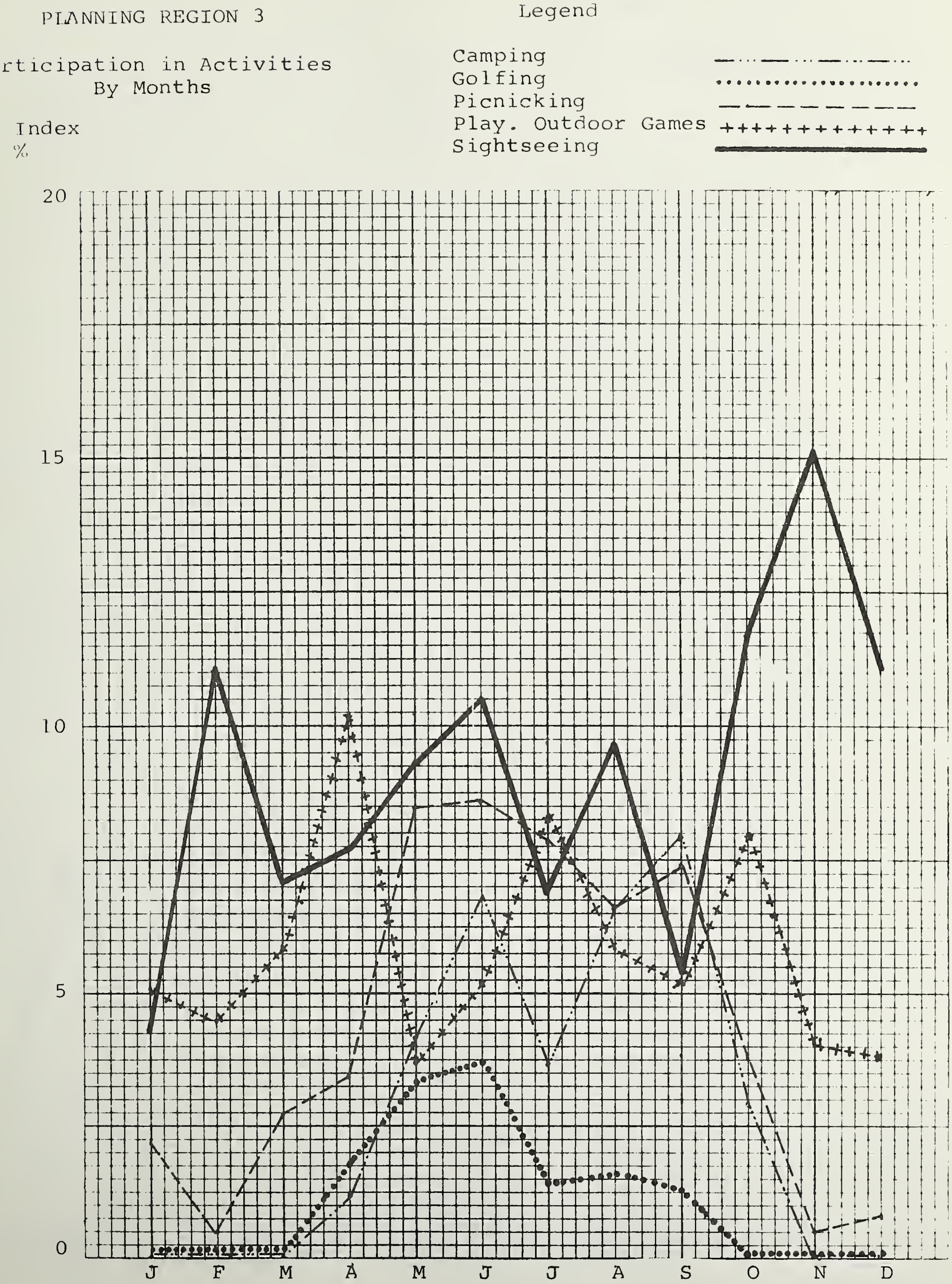
PLANNING REGION 3

Leisure Time Activities
By Months



PLANNING REGION 3

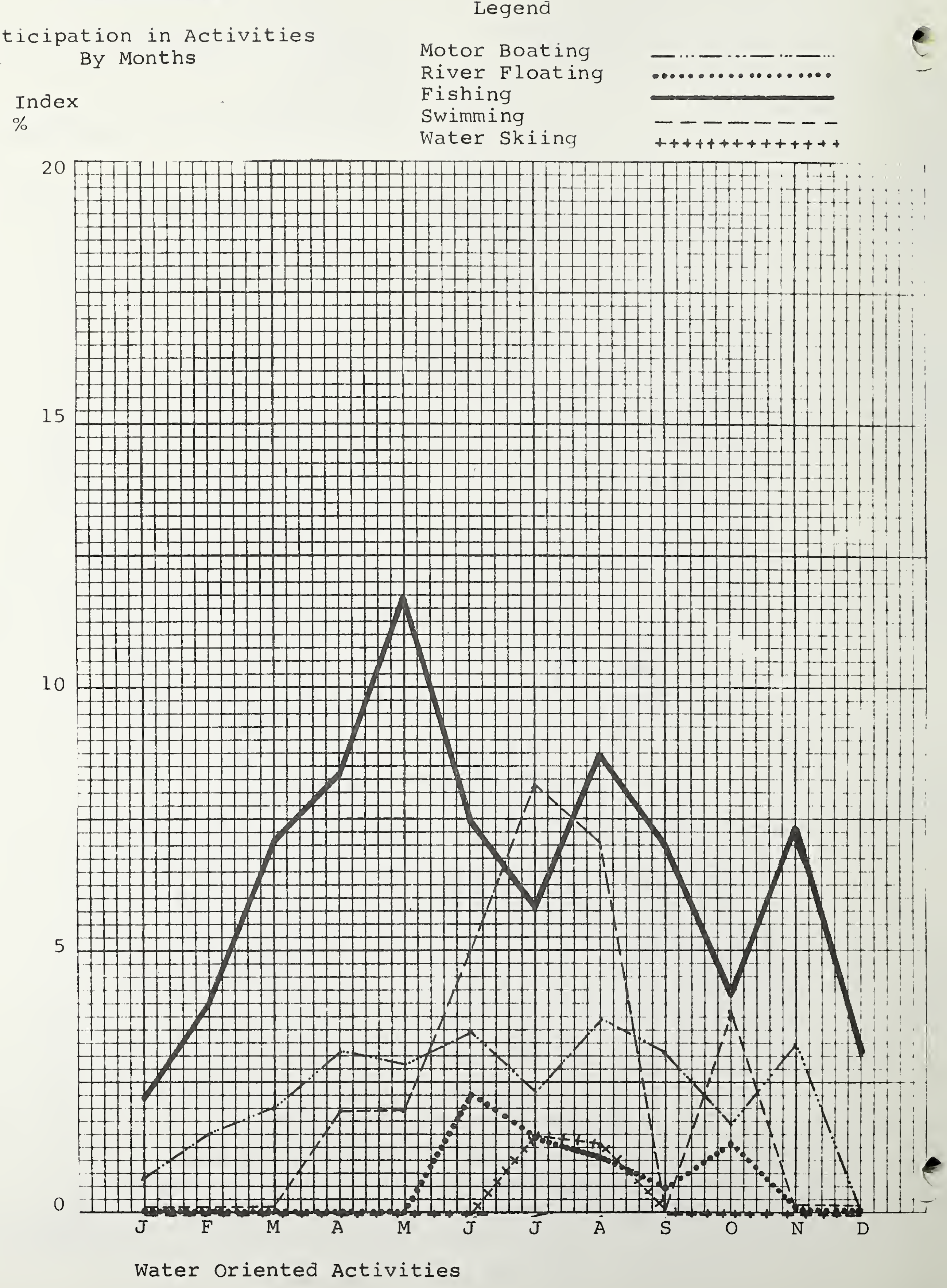
Participation in Activities
By Months



Activities Concentrated in One Area

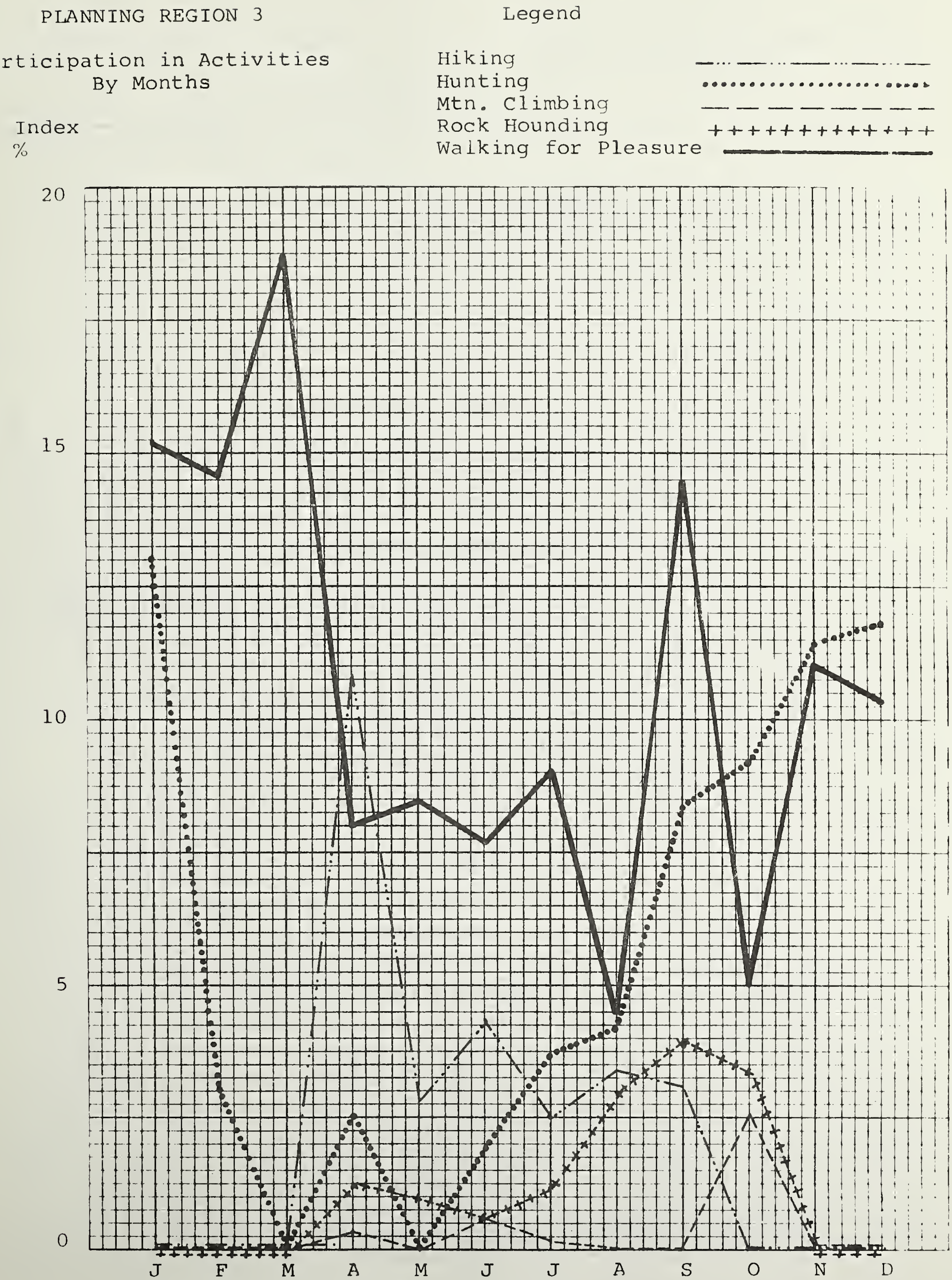
PLANNING REGION 3

Participation in Activities
By Months



PLANNING REGION 3

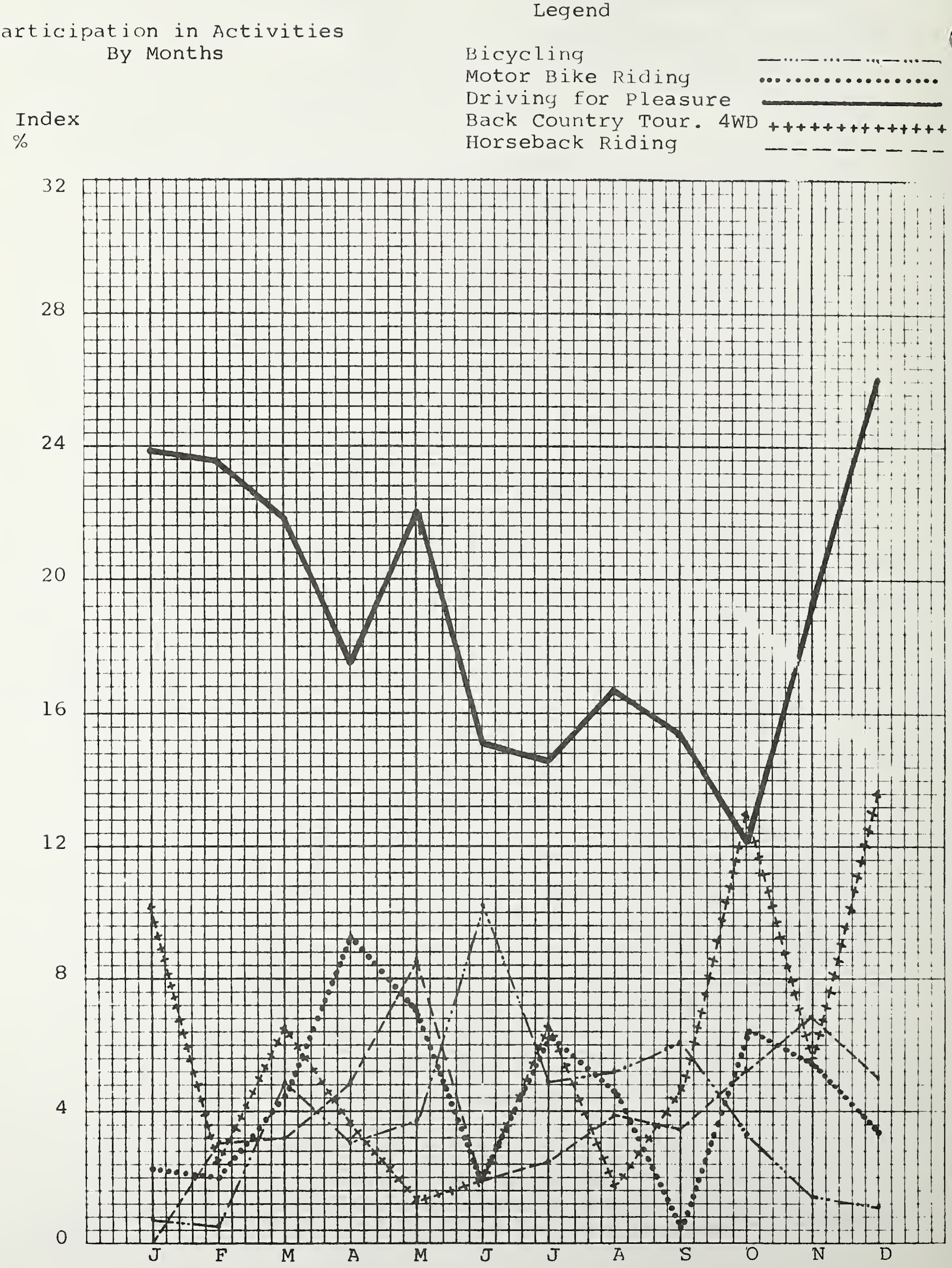
Participation in Activities
By Months



Traveling Activities w/wo Vehicle

PLANNING REGION 3

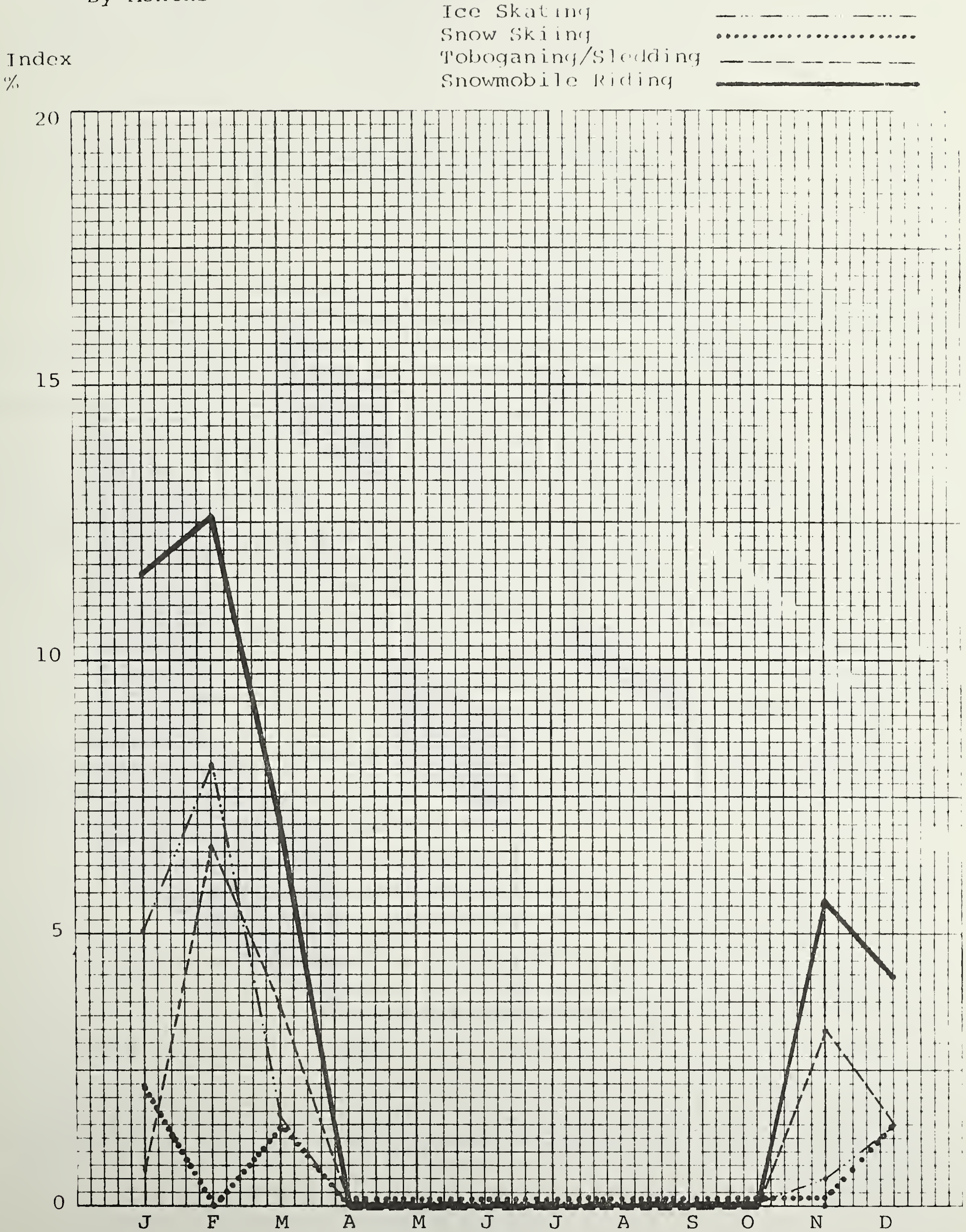
Participation in Activities
By Months



Traveling Activities - Vehicle Needed

PLANNING REGION 3

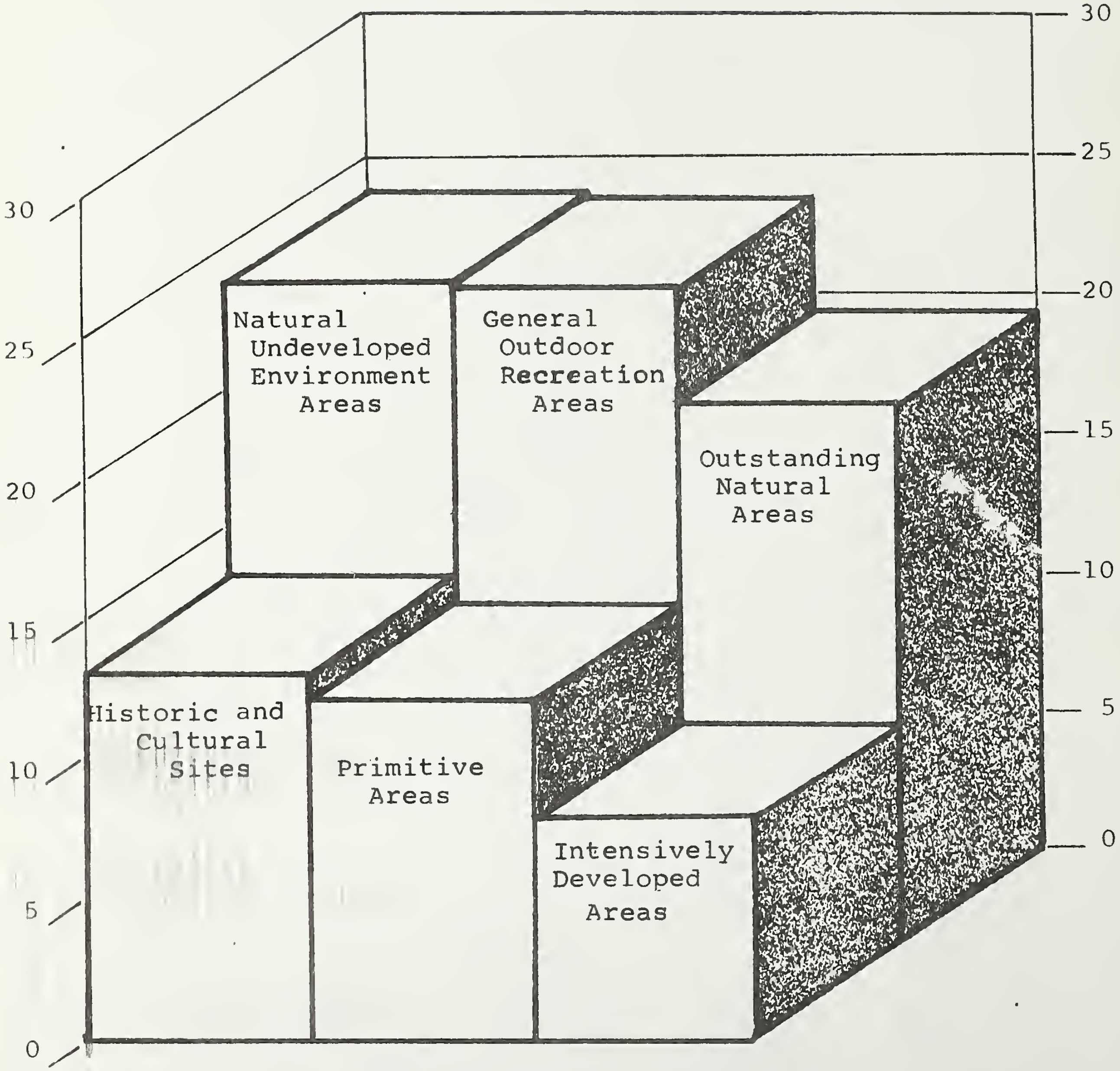
Participation in Activities
By Months



Winter Activities

PLANNING REGION 3

references for Selected Types of Recreation Areas by Montana Residents
Yearly Totals



Numbers indicate a weighted percent based on the number of responses to first, second, and third preferences.

The following table tabulates facilities available for recreation in the municipalities of Broadus, Forsyth, Hysham, Miles City and Ekalaka.

MUNICIPAL FACILITIES

MUNICIPALITIES	1970 POPULATION	1972 PARK ACREAGE	Golf	Swimming Pool	Tennis	Multi-Purpose Courts	Baseball or Softball	Football	Children's Playgrounds	Large All Purpose Playfields	Picnic Areas	Designated Bike Trails	Indoor Recreation Centers	Facilities for the Handicapped	Special Accommodations for the Handicapped	
Broadus	799	5	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x					
	Facility Needs:											N	N	N	N	N
Forsyth	1,873	8		x	x		x	x	x	x	x					
	Facility Needs:		N2													
Hysham	373	1		x			x	x	x		x					
	Facility Needs:				N					N						
Miles City	9,023	225		x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x				
	Facility Needs:			N	N											
Ekalaka	663	0		x												
	Facility Needs:		N		N	N		N		N		N	N			
	Facility Needs:															
	Facility Needs:															

1. Need a winter park for sledding and skating
2. Golf course is under construction

Recreation and parks expenditures, which include money for maintenance operation, personnel, acquisition, and development are tabulated below:

MUNICIPAL EXPENDITURES

	F. Y. 1970	F. Y. 1971	F. Y. 1972
Broadus	$ 4,400	$ 4,300	$ 4,200
Forsyth	25,731	24,004	91,305
Hysham	1,900	1,970	2,100
Miles City	55,460	48,605	58,241
Ekalaka	N/A	N/A	N/A

N/A = information not available

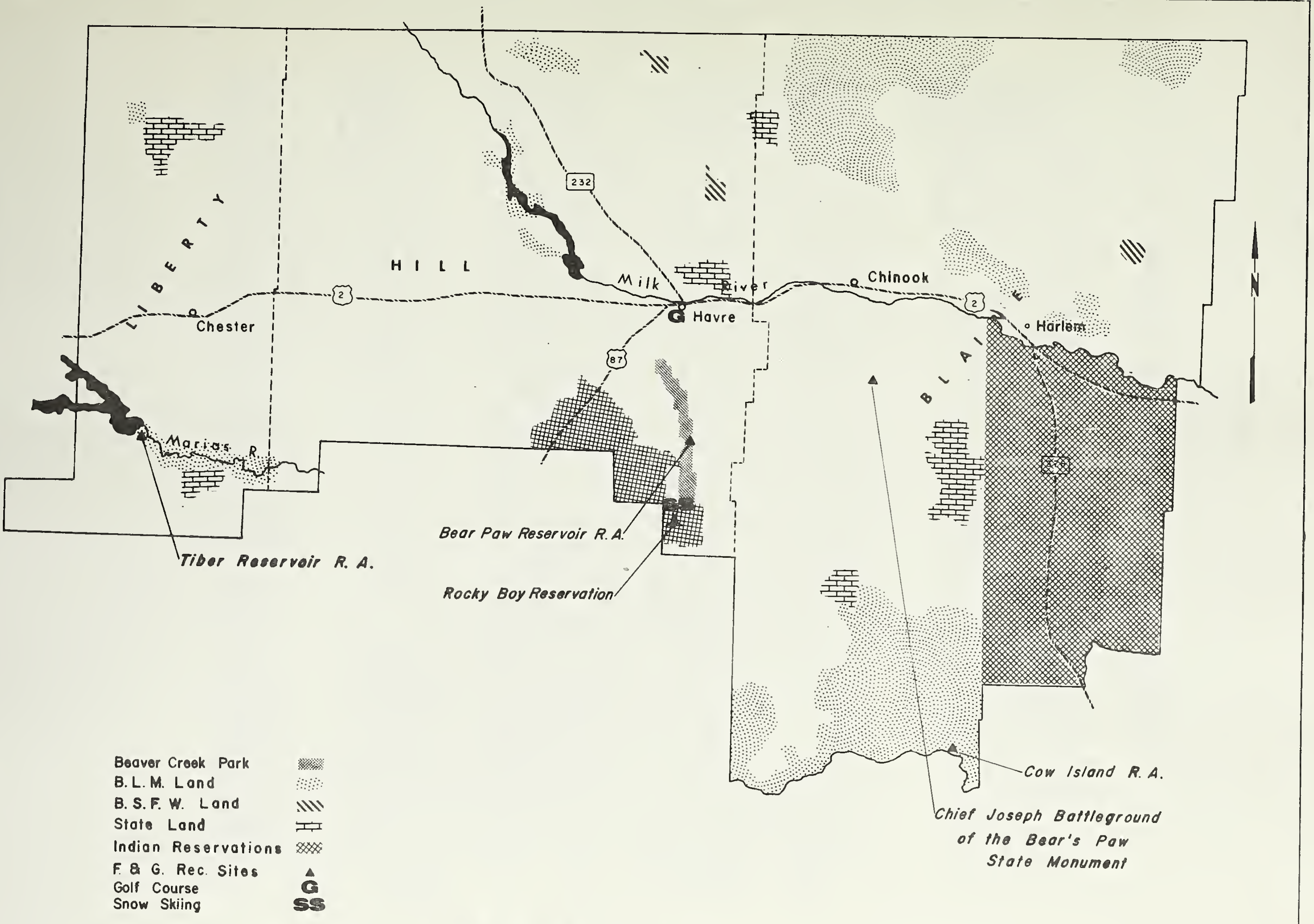
Broadus indicates their highest priority is to develop a winter park for sledding and skating.

Forsyth lists the completion of the municipal golf course as their number one priority. Acquisition of property for the golf course has increased recreation opportunity in this community.

Hysham feels that consolidation with Treasure County to maintain the pool and other facilities has increased the recreational opportunity in the area. To date Hysham has not received federal assistance for recreation. The major problems in Hysham are the lack of funds and lack of interest by citizens in the area. New programs are difficult to initiate in a town of this type where the population structure tends toward the elderly.

Miles City lists an indoor swimming pool as their highest priority. The development of the 123 acre Spotted Eagle recreational area which is leased by the city and was developed by the Custer County Rod & Gun Club has resulted in much increased recreational opportunity. Miles City feels that continuing B.O.R. funds are very important to assist in providing for recreation opportunity. A more expedient method of fund processing is needed. A new request has been that the city participate in the construction of a running track. Their major problem is with an abundance of lands which could be used for recreation and parks, but no funds to develop or maintain them.

Ekalaka's highest priority is the development of an indoor recreation center. They find a lack of funding their biggest obstacle.


LIBERTY
HILL
BLAINE
Chester
Havre
Chinook
Harlem
Milk River
Marias R.
2
232
87
N
Tiber Reservoir R. A.
Bear Paw Reservoir R. A.
Rocky Boy Reservation
Cow Island R. A.
Chief Joseph Battleground of the Bear's Paw State Monument
Beaver Creek Park
B. L. M. Land
B. S. F. W. Land
State Land
Indian Reservations
F. & G. Rec. Sites
Golf Course
G
Snow Skiing
SS

PLANNING REGION 4

REGION 4

SUMMARY OF MAJOR RECREATION PROBLEMS

The distribution of the major recreation resources of the region is such that there is a generally good relationship to the population as a whole. Such areas as the Tiber Reservoir, Fresno Reservoir, Beaver Creek Park, the Missouri River, and the Little Rocky Mountains are broadly dispersed, resulting in a more favorable situation than other regions. Recreational use does involve a fair amount of travel, however.

There is a lack of developed facilities convenient for day use activity, close to where many of the people live, however. An exception to this is Beaver Creek County Park, south of Havre, which serves a wide territory. The residents are fortunate to have a recreation area of such caliber located rather centrally to the overall region. Communities along the Milk River nevertheless, are in need of facilities closer to where they live. Residents of the eastern portion of the region would be well served by additional facilities in the Little Rocky Mountains to supplement those existing.

There is a need for some improvement to the environmental conditions at Fresno Reservoir, and additions to the boating facilities are needed. Additional facilities at Tiber would be advantageous to the adjacent communities. There is a need for some smaller fishing reservoirs in the vicinity of different communities. Privately owned ones which may be available to the public should be designated.

Development of facilities in the more open and unwooded areas of the region should be planned to compensate for the harsher climatic conditions found here. This is especially important for more comfortable use by the elderly and less capable.

Recently developed recreational facilities on the Rocky Boy Reservation are perhaps in need of more promotion and publicity in order that the public may be made more aware of them and consequently capitalize upon these opportunities.

GEOGRAPHIC, POPULATION, AND HISTORIC CHARACTERISTICS

Region 4 is the smallest in the state, containing only three counties, and it is also the most uniform in character. The extensive plains provide a base for dryland agriculture and thus the population is rather dispersed with somewhat more concentration in the irrigated river valley. The small towns, communities and the city of Havre are basically oriented to servicing agricultural interests.

Region 4 is predominantly gently rolling prairies, with the Milk River Valley transacting the region west to east. Much of the area was affected by continental glaciation. In the east central part of the region lie the isolated Bear Paw Mountains, an ingenous intrusion and volcanic rock mass which, while not being very high, provides topographic relief from the central Montana prairie. A small portion of the Sweet Grass Hills is located in the northwest part of the region, and a small portion of the Little Rockies touches the southeast corner of the region.

The natural vegetation consists of undifferentiated grassland on the plains, and deciduous cottonwood, ash and willow along the Milk River. Moving toward the Bear Paw Mountains, the grassland becomes mixed with sagebrush and finally coniferous forests and alpine grasslands are encountered. Open stands of Ponderosa pine and grassland occupy the area just north of the Missouri River and trend toward the Bear Paws.

A region in which water resources are limited, only the Milk River with its Fresno Reservoir and the Tiber Reservoir on the Marias River offer any significant potential for water-based recreation.

Climatic conditions are comparable to those on the plains of eastern Montana. A wide range of temperatures occur from winter lows to summer highs. Snowfall is limited, except in the Bear Paw Mountains where it more closely approximates snowfall in the western ranges. Maximum rainfall occurs in the early summer specifically June.

The regional population, according to the 1970 official census, is 26,444 persons with county totals as indicated below:

REGION 4 POPULATION DISTRIBUTION

County	Persons
Blaine	6,727
Hill	17,358
Liberty	2,359
Region Total	26,444

The population is concentrated along the Milk River Valley, with major population centers at Chester (population 936), Chinook (population 1,813), Harlem (population 1,094) and the largest at Havre (population 10,558). Forty percent of the population in this region live in an urban area, which is Havre. Minority groups representation, mainly Indian, is high in Region 4 with 23% of Blaine and 9% of Hill counties being Indian population. This is a significant number and needs particular to this group should be considered. The region has lost population since 1960 with Blaine County down 17%, Liberty down 10% and Hill down 7%.

Region 4 is served by rail, air transportation, with a major airport at Havre; and primary highways with U.S. 2 being the major route passing east and west through the region.

The Region's economy is based heavily on agriculture with wheat farming predominating. Havre is the regional center for commerce and professional services.

Public land in Region 4 is not so widespread as in other regions with Blaine County having the greatest percent: 23%. The following table indicates the percentage of public land in each county in the region.

PUBLIC LAND IN REGION 4 *

County	Percentage	Square Miles
Blaine	23.3	997
Hill	10.2	310
Liberty	13.6	199
	17.4	1,506

* Does not include local government land

This public land is administered with major public land holdings as follows:

PUBLIC LAND ADMINISTRATION - REGION 4

Agency	Land (acres)
Federal	
Bureau of Land Management	486,949
Bureau of Reclamation	33,844
Bureau of Sport Fisheries & Wildlife	739
Total	521,532

State

Dept. of State Lands (not including State Forest)	416,936
Montana Department of Fish & Game	18,088
Total	435,024

Indian Reservation Land

Fort Belknap Reservation	539,000
Rocky Boy Reservation	56,300
	595,300

Local

Community Parks (Includes Beaver Creek Co. Park. 10,000)	10,150

Regional Points of Interest

Havre

Northern Montana College is located here, and Fort Assiniboine and the Bear Paw Mountains are nearby.

Rocky Boy Indian Reservation and Recreation Area

New facilities for camping, nature tours, fishing, swimming and other accommodations have been provided at this reservation for the Chippewa and Cree tribes.

Chief Joseph Battleground of the Bear's Paw State Monument

This state monument commemorates the final battleground of the Nez Perce and the surrender site of Chief Joseph.

Fort Belknap Indian Reservation

This reservation for Assiniboine and Gros Ventre tribes has its tribal office at Harlem.

Historic Sites

One of the more prominent historic sites in the region is the Chief Joseph Battleground of the Bear's Paw Mountains. Here was the site of the surrender of Chief Joseph and the Nez Perce on October 5, 1877. After a journey of nearly 2,000 miles the Indians were captured by Colonel Nelson A. Miles only 30 miles from Canada. It was here that Chief Joseph, tired and disheartened, was reported to have said when surrendering: "...From where the sun now stands, I will fight no more forever."

Another important site is Fort Assiniboine, near Havre, which was established in 1879 to help the Army administer and patrol the Milk River country. It evolved into an important regimental training post.

Below is a summary chart listing the major historic sites in Region 4.

HISTORIC SITES IN REGION 4

	Historic Site	County(s)	Significant Dates	Significance
NR	Chief Joseph Battleground of the Bear's Paw State Monument	Blaine	1877	Historic-aboriginal
	Cow Island Landing	Blaine	1870's	Commerce
	Fort Belknap Agency I	Blaine	1880's	Historic-aboriginal
	Fort Belknap Agency II	Blaine	1890's	Historic-aboriginal
	Fort Browning Agency	Blaine	1860's	Historic-aboriginal
	Ilges' Fight	Baline	1877	Military
	Keaster Site	Blaine	mid-prehistor.	Prehist.-aboriginal
	Snake Butte	Blaine	late-prehistor.	Prehist.-aboriginal
	Fort Assiniboine	Hill	1880's	Military/His-aborig.
	Rocky Boy Agency	Hill	1910	Historic-aboriginal
	Wapa Chugn Bison Kill Site	Hill	late-prehistor.	Prehist.-aboriginal
	Galata Site	Liberty	late-prehistor.	Prehist.-aboriginal

NR = Site is listed on the National Register of Historic Places

CHARACTERISTICS OF RECREATION USE

Leisure Time in Region 4

Indoor spectator activities are engaged in to a greater degree by Region 4 residents than any of the other activities.

The second most popular activities for Region 4 residents are outdoor recreation activities which are popular to varying degrees at various time through the year. On a par with the outdoor recreation activities are the home related activities which include gardening, shop work, etc. These activities are engaged in nearly as much as outdoor recreation and peak at various time throughout the year. Self improvement activities which are no where near as popular as the other activities, do exceed the other activities when they reach a peak in late winter. The greatest amount of leisure time available to Region 4 residents was in April, the least in September. Residents had the most time for outdoor recreation in April and May, least time in December.

(For a more complete graphic account, see Appendix.)

The Characteristics and Viewpoints of the Park User in Region 4

(Note: Data pertaining to this section of Region 4 is based on only 25 survey returns; with this small a sample, validity of the section must not be considered as definitive.)

Subsequent to the park users survey which was conducted in all 12 regions, it was found that there was a greater percentage of residents than non-resident use in Planning Region 4 than in any other region. Fully 96% of all those surveyed were residents of Montana. Of these residents, only 24% originated within Planning Region 4 and a full 72% originated outside of Region 4 and came to this region to use the recreation facilities, indicating that many nearby residents look to Region 4 for recreation opportunity.

Day use of Region 4 facilities is quite frequent and should be planned for accordingly. It overshadows overnight or more lengthy stays. The reason given most frequently for choosing recreation sites in Region 4 was that the site provided or accommodated a certain desired activity. The fact that the recreation area was relatively close to home was the second most prevalent reason for choosing these sites. Recreationists gave natural beauty as a reason for selecting a site in Region 4 less than in any other region. The condition of facilities at recreation areas in Region 4 were rated considerably below the state average, indicating a need for better maintenance. Environmental factors rated below the state average at Region 4 recreation areas. Sufficient privacy seemed to be lacking as well as convenient access to the areas and again natural beauty was rated below the state average. 48% of those recreationists interviewed indicated a need for additional activities or facilities at selected recreation areas in this region.

Resting and relaxing was the most popular activity engaged in by recreationists using Region 4 facilities. The water-oriented activities such as fishing, boating and water skiing were also very popular and were participated in to a high degree. Camping and picnicking were also popular. On the other hand, preferences indicated a high degree of popularity for water skiing, fishing, camping and swimming. These data indicate a desire to participate in more water sports if this were possible.

Implications

1. Areas were not selected for their natural beauty by those surveyed which probably suggests that the area is not a destination point for out-of-state users. Hence the high rate of use by residents.

2. A relatively high amount of day-use occurs in Region 4 by the resident indicating a need for day-use facilities and provisions for day use activities. Nearness to home seems to be an important factor in this region also.

3. One of the major attractions of the region is Tiber Reservoir Recreation Area. This probably accounts for a destination point for many of the persons coming into the region from other regions in the state.

4. It is probable that greater privacy, better access, and better maintenance could be achieved at the recreation sites in Region 4.

5. Accommodations for passive recreation were important to those users of Region 4 parks.

6. Increased attention should be given to the provision of facilities and areas for water sport participation, as these activities group rated quite high in both participation and preference.

The Montana Resident

A perfect correlation existed for the most popular activity, driving for pleasure, in both participation and preference. Walking for pleasure, sightseeing and fishing were the next three most popular activities, although in preference fishing ranked second above the other two. This indicates perhaps a desire for more fishing on the part of residents of Region 4. Hunting was the fifth most preferred activity and ranked higher in preference than it did in actual participation, suggesting that people would do more hunting if the opportunity were available.

Fishing was by far the most popular water-oriented activity peaking in late spring and dropping off in late summer. Only near the end of summer did swimming and motor boating exceed fishing in popularity. Smowmobiling is the most popular winter sport, extending into early spring. For activities concentrated generally in one area, sightseeing is the most popular, but reaches a low point in the spring and early summer. At this time playing outdoor games, picnicking and camping all exceed sightseeing. Walking for pleasure is extremely popular but did decline in the warmer summer months. Only in the fall did another activity, hunting, come close to walking in popularity. And for those activities where a vehicle is needed, driving for pleasure, again far outweighs other activities in popularity and is a fairly consistent activity throughout the year. (For a detailed graphic account see Appendix.)

For children in Region 4, the most popular outdoor activity was playing outdoor games. The next most popular activities were fishing, driving for pleasure (with an adult), bicycling and motor bike riding.

Region 4 residents stated that when recreating outdoors they preferred natural undeveloped environment type areas overall. An example of this type of an area is Beaver Creek Park, a 10,000 acre area over most of which are no developed facilities. The park is primarily a pleasant natural environment which enhances recreation that requires few facilities. The second most popular environment for recreation would be general outdoor recreation area which includes some developed facilities at state parks, recreation areas or forest campgrounds. The third most popular type of an area was an outstanding natural area such as Yellowstone National Park. (See Appendix for further detail.)

Implications

1. The great amount of driving for pleasure done by residents of Region 4 would suggest that better facilities to allow pleasurable driving should be available to these people.

2. Other activities which should be planned for in Region 4 are walking for pleasure, sightseeing, hunting, facilities for passive recreation and facilities for a variety of water sports.

3. Children's activities which should get increased attention are playing outdoor games, fishing and bicycling.

4. It appears that Region 4 residents desire outdoor recreation that centers around natural areas with few facilities and occasional developed areas which are located near

water resources.

5. Day use is important to the residents of this region as are facilities in areas located close to home.

Problems and Potentials in Recreation for Region 4

With such a popular activity as driving for pleasure, it would appear that future development for some type of recreation road perhaps based on a loop concept would have merit. Points of interest and rest stops along the way would be an asset in such a road and would offer intermittent stops. Use of existing secondary roads would provide a basis for such a concept. A bike trail might be feasible near some point of interest.

Walking for pleasure normally occurs within the towns and villages. Some potential for walking trails is always present at various points of interest. A few such points of interest might be the Tiber Reservoir, Rocky Boy Reservation or the Beaver Creek Park. There is also potential for hiking trails at these various sites. The potential for hunting big game, small game, or water fowl in Region 4 is also above average.

The potential for such winter sports as snow skiing, snowmobiling, tobogganing and sledding is somewhat influenced by the uncertain snowfall and wind conditions. There is one developed snow skiing facility located on the Rocky Boy Indian Reservation.

Water-oriented activities such as fishing, swimming, river floating, motor boating and water skiing are quite popular with the residents of this region and the surrounding area. Tiber Reservoir offers one of the larger water resources for the area and is used quite heavily at various periods through the summer. There is a potential for additional water-based activities at Fresno Reservoir and along the Milk River. Consideration should be given to development at all of these water areas. The potential for fishing in this region is average.

It would appear that some types of camping have better than average potential in Region 4. Transient camping is highly dependent upon tourists and US 2 running through the region provides such a potential. Camping sites near US 2 and US 87 would provide facilities for many non-residents treveling to other points east and west. Campers as always prefer more scenic areas and this is a factor which must be considered. Beaver Creek Park would offer much not only in camping but other recreational activities also. Beaver Creek Park presently is undergoing further development and new picnic facilities will be provided.

Tiber Reservoir, Fresno Reservoir, Beaver Creek Park and various parts of the Indian reservations in the Milk River Valley are the greatest recreational resources in Region 4. Most of the recreation facilities currently provided in the region are administered by the Montana Fish and Game Department. In the future, greater participation in recreation development should be assumed by some of the other public agencies in this region.

Inventory of Facilities

Federal and State Recreation Facilities

In Region 4, the Montana Fish and Game Department is the primary supplier of recreation facilities. Major areas and selected facilities are summarized below:

FEDERAL AND STATE RECREATION AREAS - REGION 4

	Picnic Units	Camping Units	Swimming Area Available	Fishing Access Avail.	Boat Ramp Available
State					
Montana Department of Fish and Game					
Tiber Reserv.	54	50	0	X	X
Chief Joseph Battleground of the Bear's Paw State Mon.	4	0	0	0	0
Bear Paw Res. FAS	15	10	0	X	0
Cow Island Rec. Area	0	0	0	X	0
Total	73	60	0	3	1
Indian Reservation					
Rocky Boy Res.	5	0	X	X	0
Total	5	0	X	X	0
Total Selected Facilities Region 4	78	60	1	4	1

MAJOR RECREATION RESOURCES

FRESNO RESERVOIR

This 6500 acre Bureau of Reclamation reservoir is a popular area with residents of the region because of the excellent fishing, both winter and summer. Northern pike and walleye are abundant and the fishery is improving. The waters are relatively clear in the reservoir and thus the recreation attraction is enhanced. The water surface is sizable enough to withstand considerable additional pressures of use. However, limitations consist of sparse vegetation which has been damaged by overgrazing and the relatively narrow take line of land surrounding the reservoir.

Boating activity could be increased substantially with additional ramps and extended to low water line. At present there are three areas from which to launch boats. The Fresno boat club has developed a natural area near the dam for picnicking and day use. There are sand and rock beach areas at seven or eight locations and swimming is a popular activity.

In addition to the boating and fishing the area is an important stopover point for waterfowl migrations. Preliminary plans have been discussed for establishment of a waterfowl management area at the northern end of the reservoir in the area known as the Chain of Lakes. Hunting of waterfowl is restricted in the lower end, but is permissible at the upper end.

The grazing lands adjoining the area have numerous tepee rings in relatively good state of preservation. These should not be designated for visitation until a system of protection is devised for them.

The area offers very little in the way of feasibility for the private concessionaire.

TIBER RESERVOIR

The reservoir is an expansive area of some 15,000 acres with more than 50 miles of shoreline. The reservoir, immediately after impoundment, provided good fishing; however, problems of siltation and other problems have decreased that potential. Boating activity has an unlimited potential on the reservoir with generally suitable shorelines for access and egress. Waterfowl hunting in the fall is an important recreation activity.

Desirability of the area is limited by the generally sterile environment surrounding the reservoir. The more attractive sites are those developed below the dam by the Fish and Game Department and known as Sanford Park.

Bureau of Land Management lands below the reservoir should be investigated for enhancement of existing public recreation areas.

Population pressures are relatively low in the area and thus development can easily keep pace in the future as demand increases.

BEAVER CREEK COUNTY PARK

This 10,000 acre park provided by Hill County is a significant recreation area in the region. It is heavily used by the local population and draws considerable additional visitation. The park is located in the foothills of the Bear Paw Mountains and provides approximately 5 miles of access to Beaver Creek. The park is very scenic and spacious and is very nicely developed for picnicking and camping, including provisions for youth camping. The youth camp provides 13 cabins and a swimming pool recently renovated. Approximately 125 camping units are provided and somewhat more family picnic units. The park is used to capacity every summer weekend by families capitalizing upon the combined camping and fishing activity and the attractiveness of the surroundings.

Additional facilities are planned by the county, primarily a larger camping area more suitable for trailers and other camping vehicles. Since the combined day use and camping is very high at present, the capacity of the park to absorb additional development beyond this will be carefully evaluated, particularly in the most desirable sections. The youth camp facilities will be enhanced and modernized by the county in the next several years.

Hiking and walking trails would be an excellent addition to the park. Some facilities for stabling of horses would be of great convenience to those desiring to use riding horses.

The park contains Bear Paw Reservoir and development of this for a fishing access site has been provided by the Department of Fish and Game. Some additional development for camping could be provided here. A large picnic shelter for group picnics is available and additional development for that activity is not contemplated at this time.

CHIEF JOSEPH BATTLEGROUND OF THE BEAR'S PAW STATE MONUMENT

The area has been developed primarily for the purpose of providing appreciation and enjoyment of the historic background of the site and thus facilities are limited to interpretive facilities, a short walking trail and a very few picnic units. It is not contemplated that any additional development will take place in the foreseeable future.

The visitor has the opportunity to view the battleground in very nearly the same natural condition as at the time of the engagement and this adds considerably to the enjoyment of the area.

MISSOURI RIVER

A thirty mile section of the Missouri River borders Blaine County on the south and access to this is provided by the Cow Island site administered by the Department of Fish and Game. The site is intended to remain essentially primitive and little further development may be expected.

MILK RIVER

A considerable segment of the Milk River traverses the region, with the northwesterly portion being impounded for the Fresno Reservoir. From Havre to the community of Dodson, the river is the major water resource and is extensively used for irrigation. The river has somewhat limited recreational value at present because of an intensive mosquito problem and the steep cut banks in many areas.

Investigation should be made to find suitable sites for recreation on the river, particularly near the cities and towns. Some effort is under way to mitigate the insect problem. The river and associated woodland is attractive and some use for recreation would be an important addition to the recreational resources of the region.

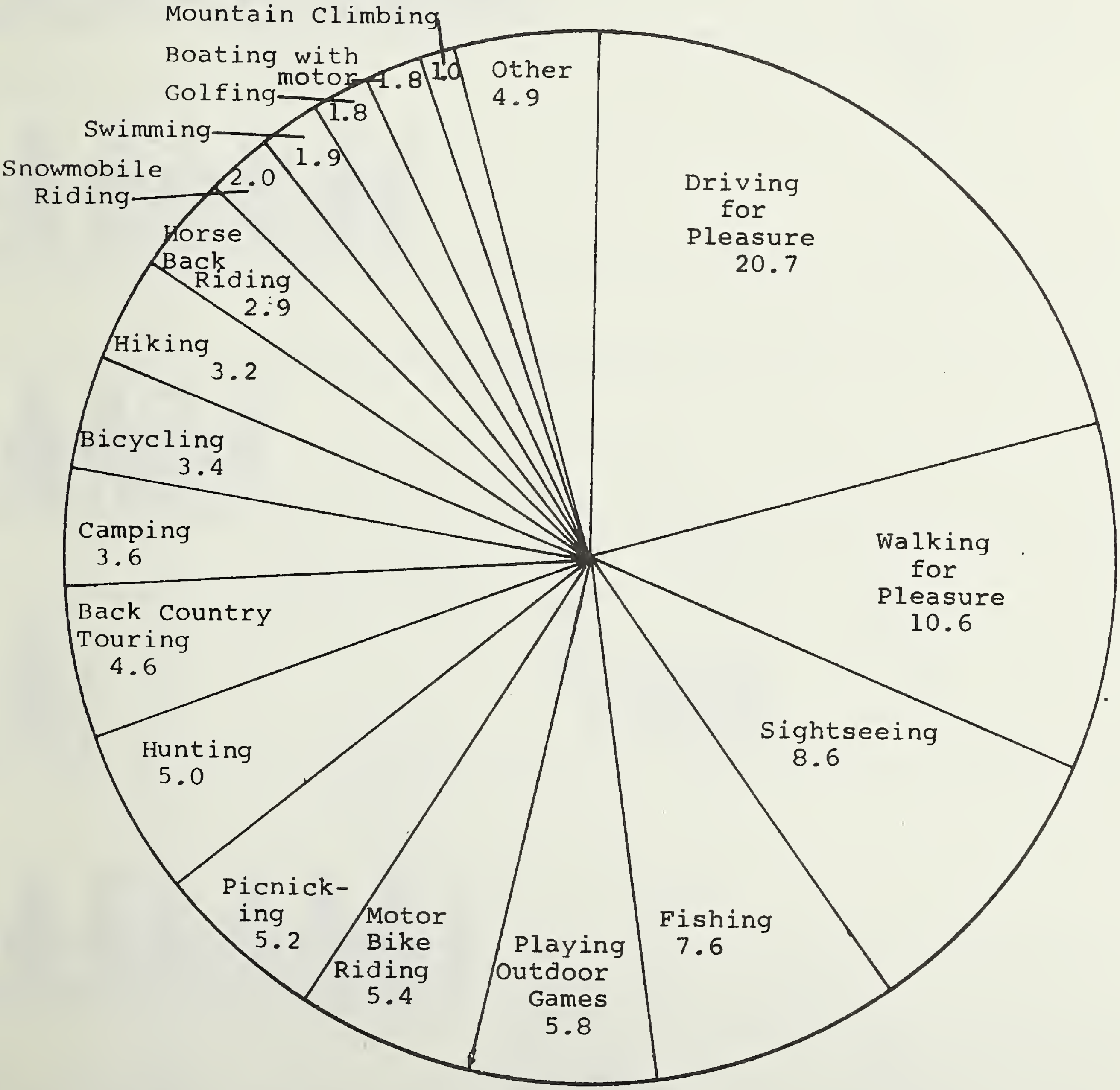
LITTLE ROCKY MOUNTAINS

This area is technically within adjoining planning region no. 1; however, the residents of region 4 likely make equal or more use of the site.

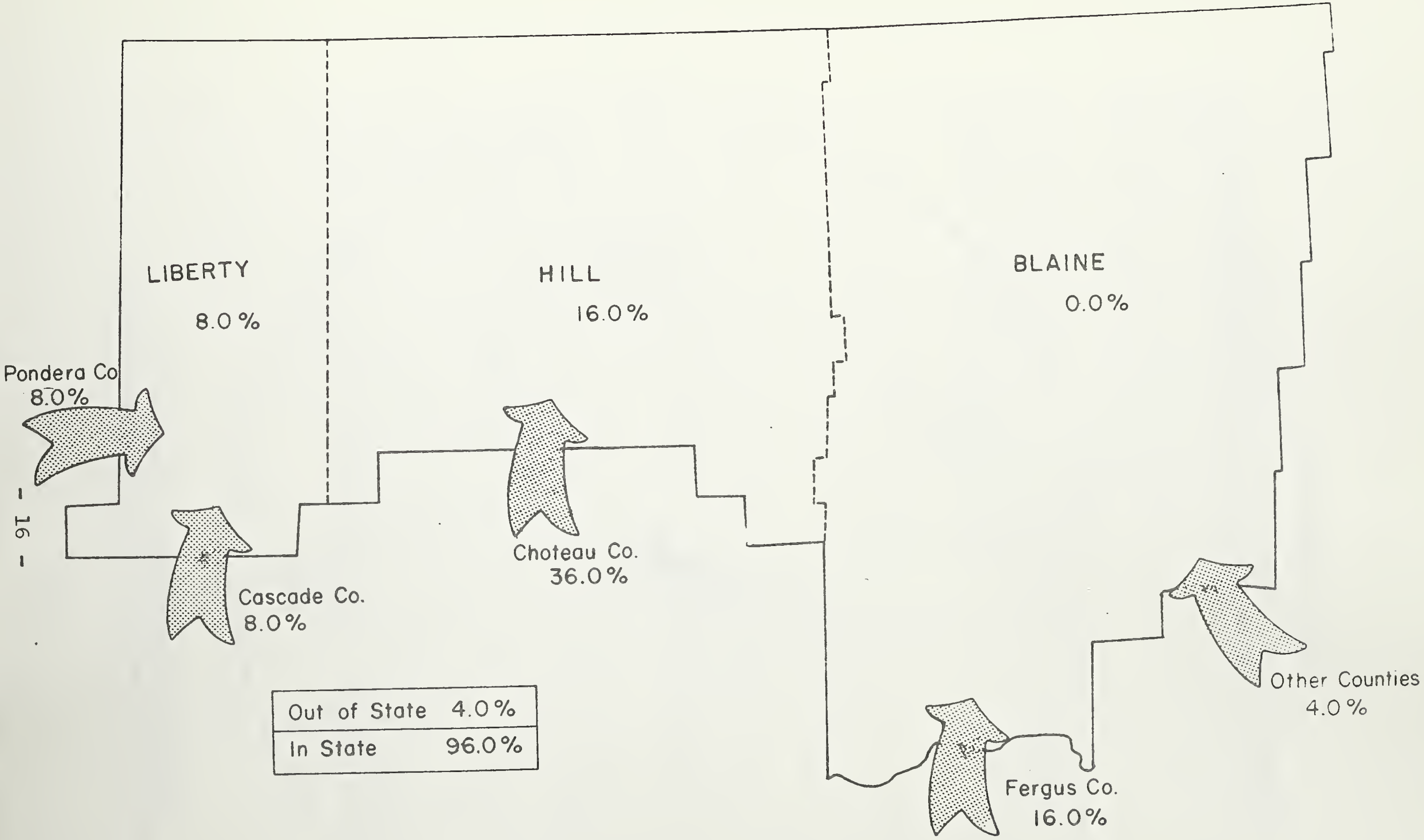
The mountains are very scenic and are overlain by a small portion of the Lewis and Clark National Forest. The Bureau of Land Management has provided two attractive campgrounds, among the most delightful in the entire state. There is a great deal of recreational opportunity potentially available in this area and additional development should be undertaken. Hiking and riding trails would be desirable and additional camping and picnicking. The mountains contain a large number of mining claims and this will be a limiting factor in given areas of development, however. Since the area is isolated somewhat from the larger communities, the small mining towns of Zortman and Landusky supply a certain amount of the concession type of facilities for the visitor from a distance.

PLANNING REGION 4

Frequency of Participation in Selected Outdoor Recreation Activities by Montana Residents - Yearly Average



The above percentages represent an activity's portion of all recreation time.


LIBERTY
8.0 %
HILL
16.0 %
BLAINE
0.0 %
Pondera Co
8.0 %
Cascade Co.
8.0 %
Choteau Co.
36.0 %
Fergus Co.
16.0 %
Other Counties
4.0 %

Out of State	4.0 %
In State	96.0 %

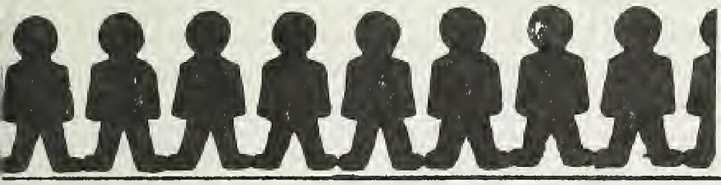
ORIGIN OF PARTIES RECREATING IN PLANNING REGION 4

PLANNING REGION 4

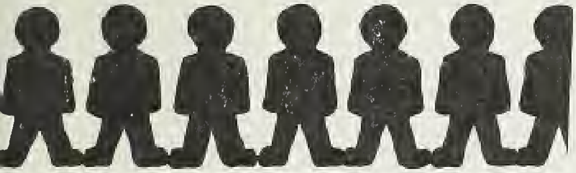
Leisure Time Activities Engaged in by Montana Residents - Yearly Average

ch man equals 2 responses

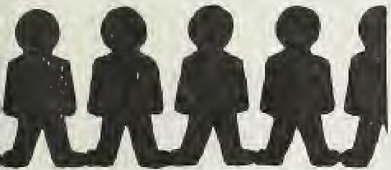
Indoor spectator activities (16.6)



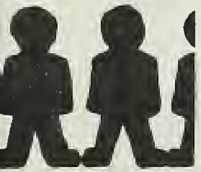
Social activities (13.2)



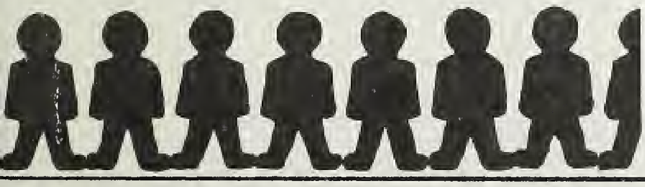
Indoor play activities (9.1)



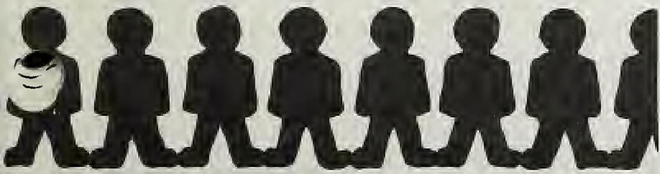
Self improvement activities (4.5)



Home related activities (15.0)



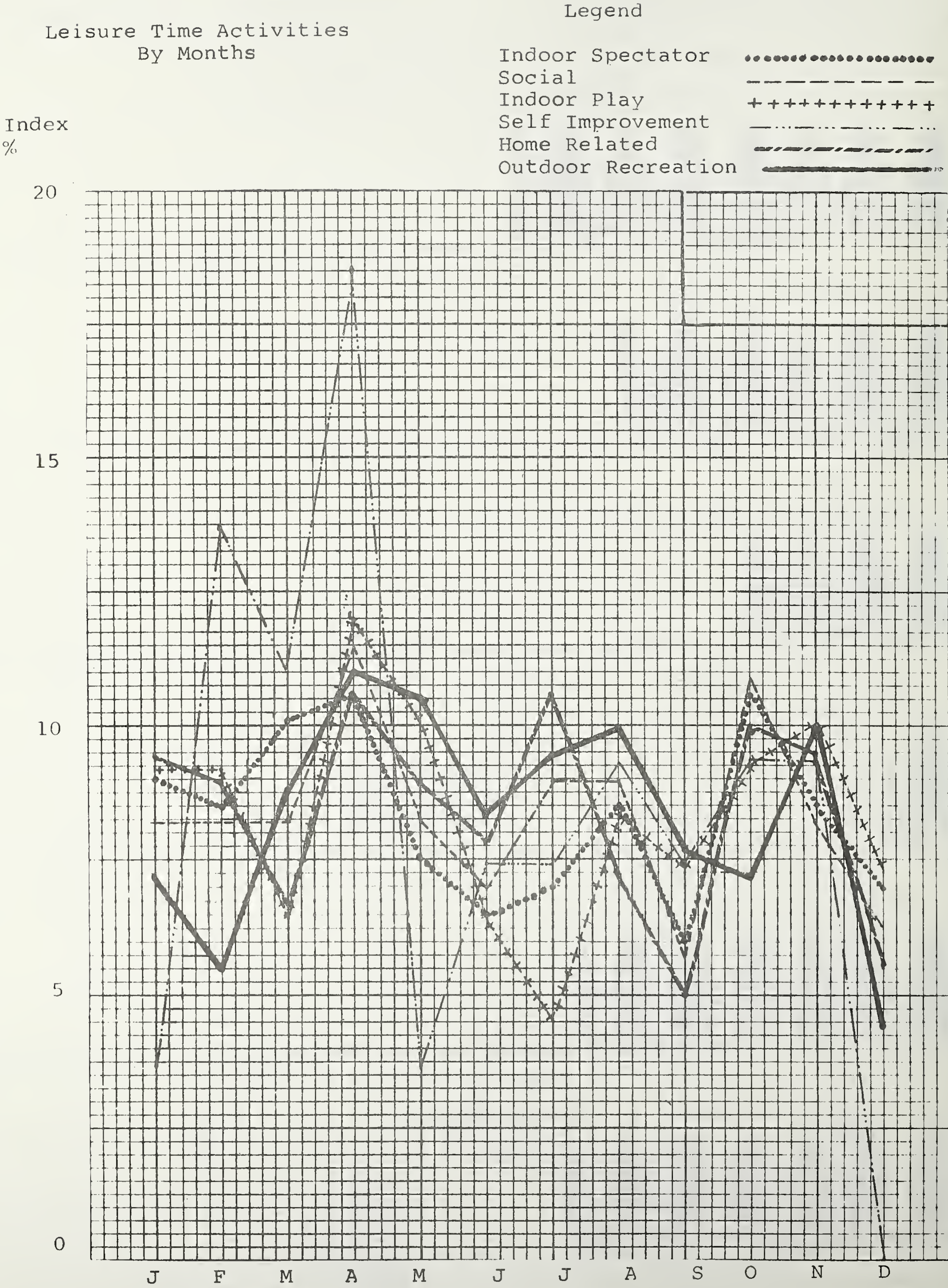
Outdoor recreation (15.1)



Above numbers indicate the average monthly responses from surveyed residents in the planning region.

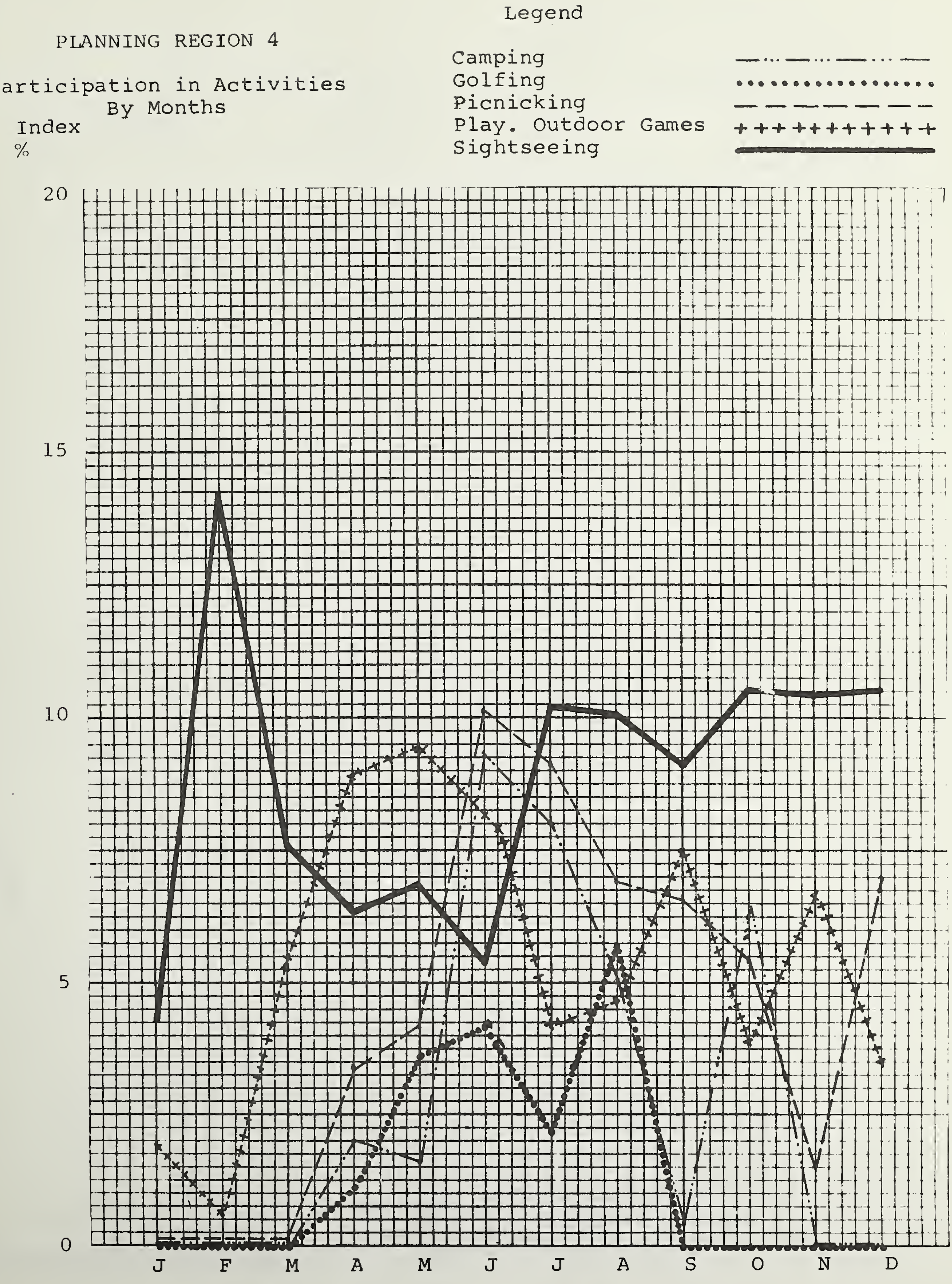
PLANNING REGION 4

Leisure Time Activities
By Months



PLANNING REGION 4

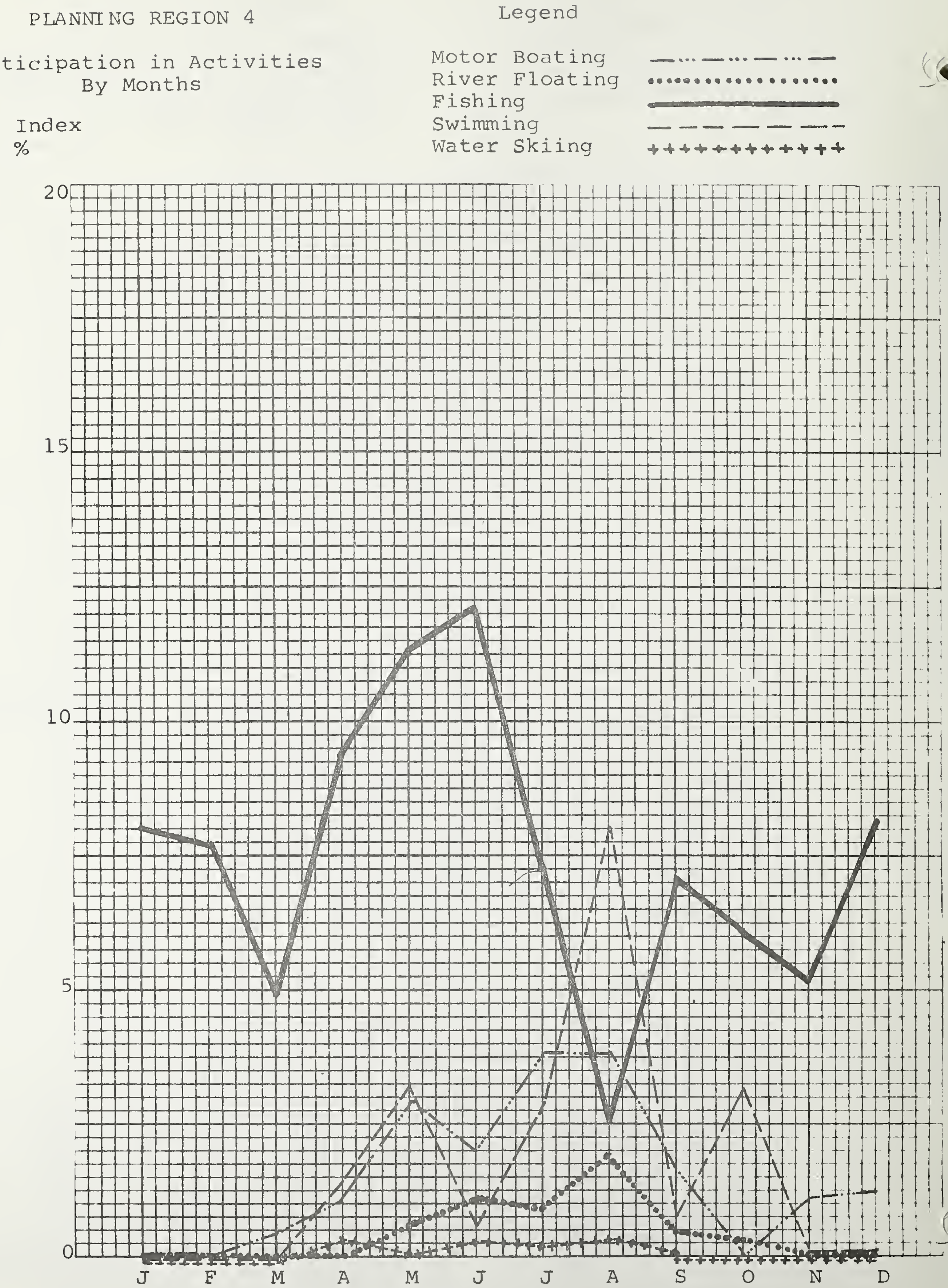
Participation in Activities
By Months



Activities Concentrated in One Area

PLANNING REGION 4

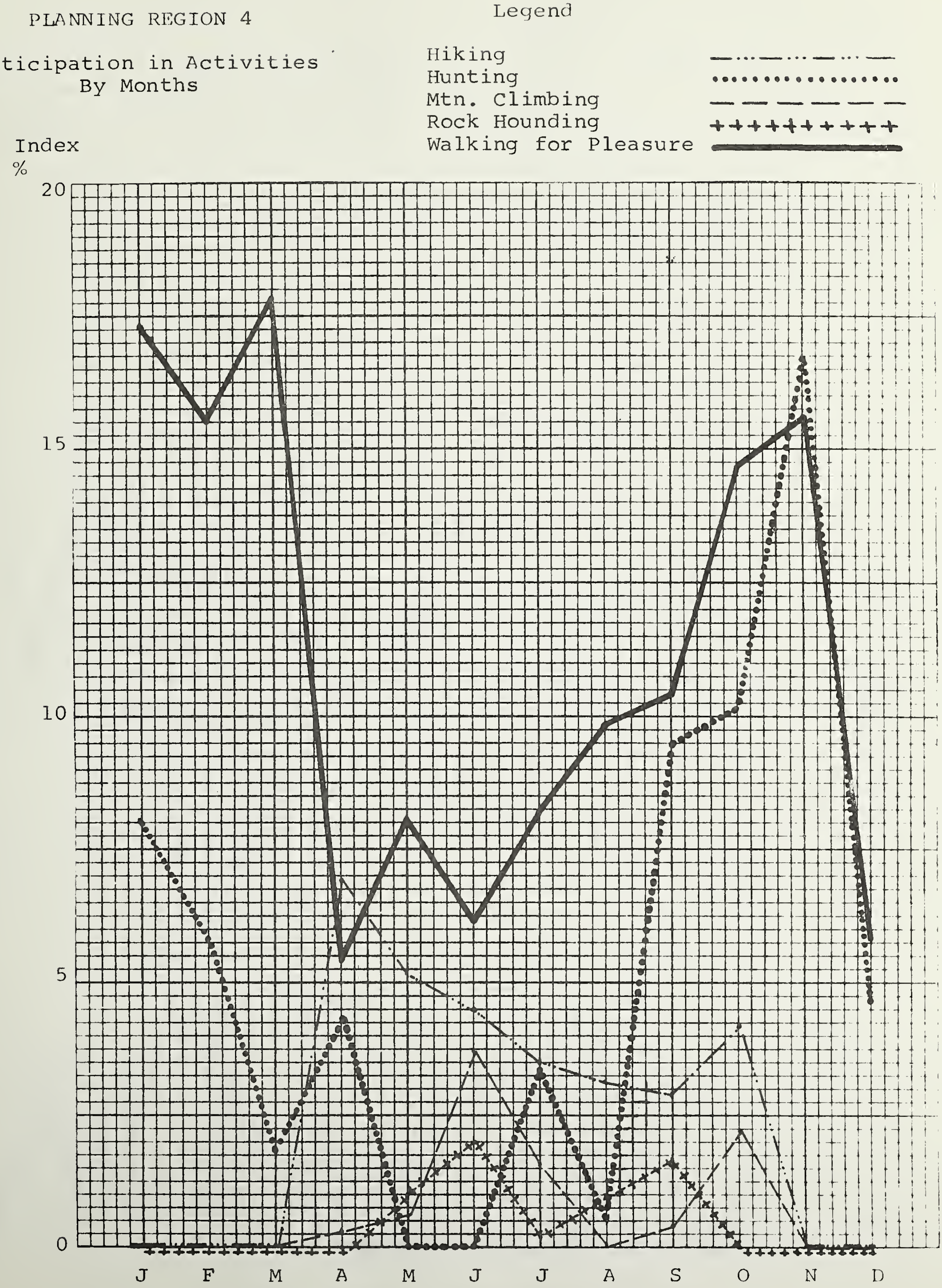
Participation in Activities
By Months



Water Oriented Activities

PLANNING REGION 4

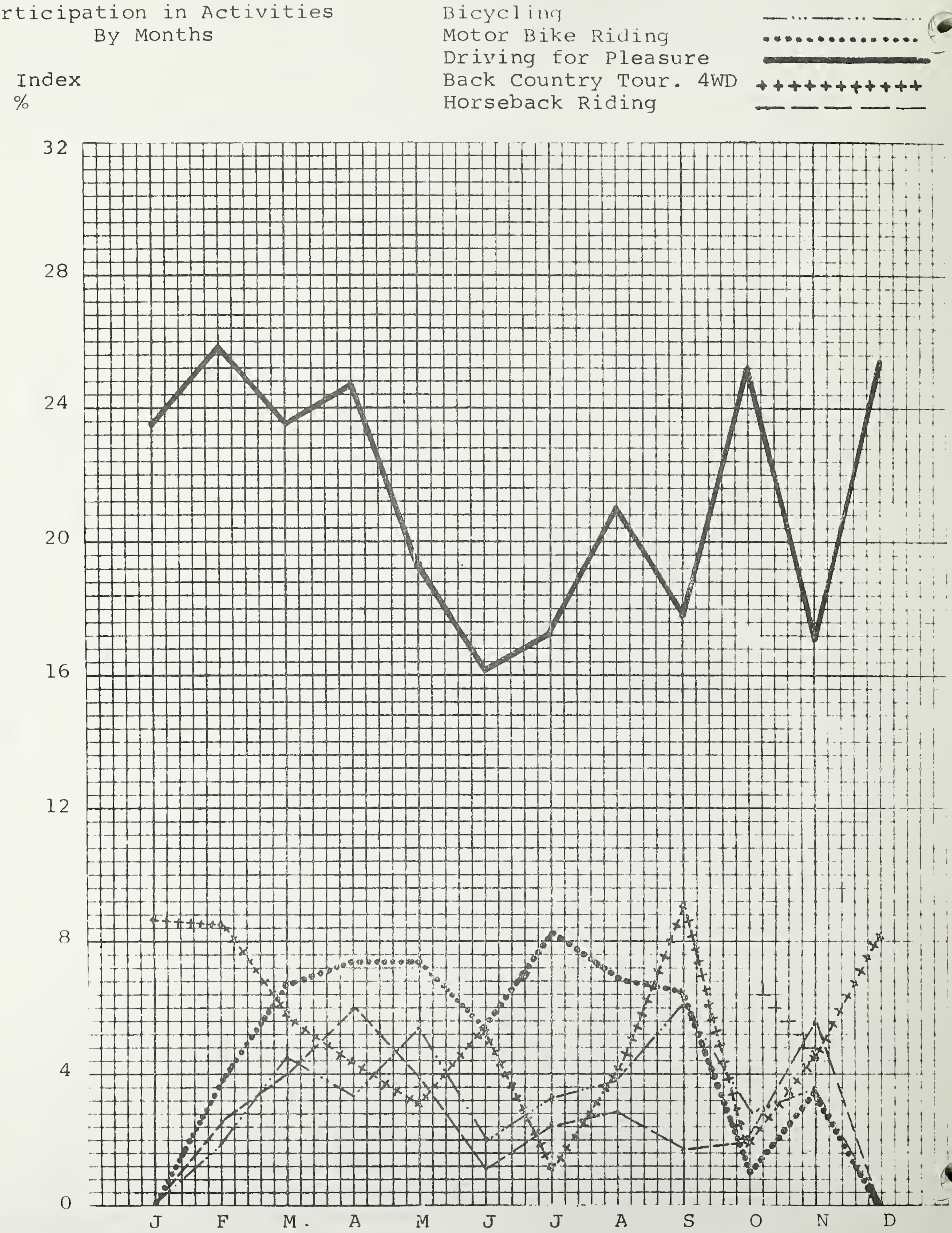
Participation in Activities
By Months



Traveling Activities w/wo Vehicle

PLANNING REGION 4

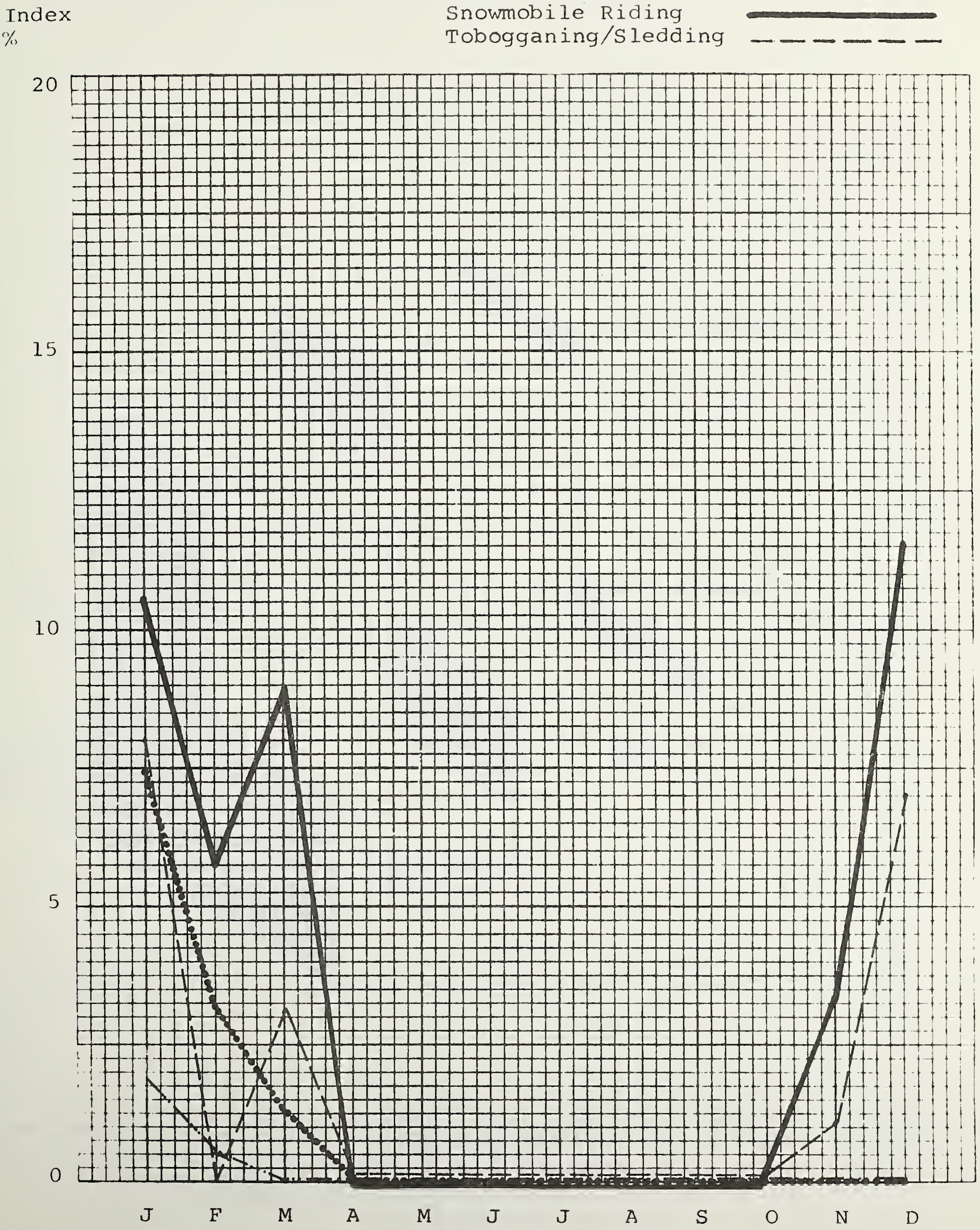
Participation in Activities
By Months



Traveling Activities - Vehicle Needed

PLANNING REGION 4

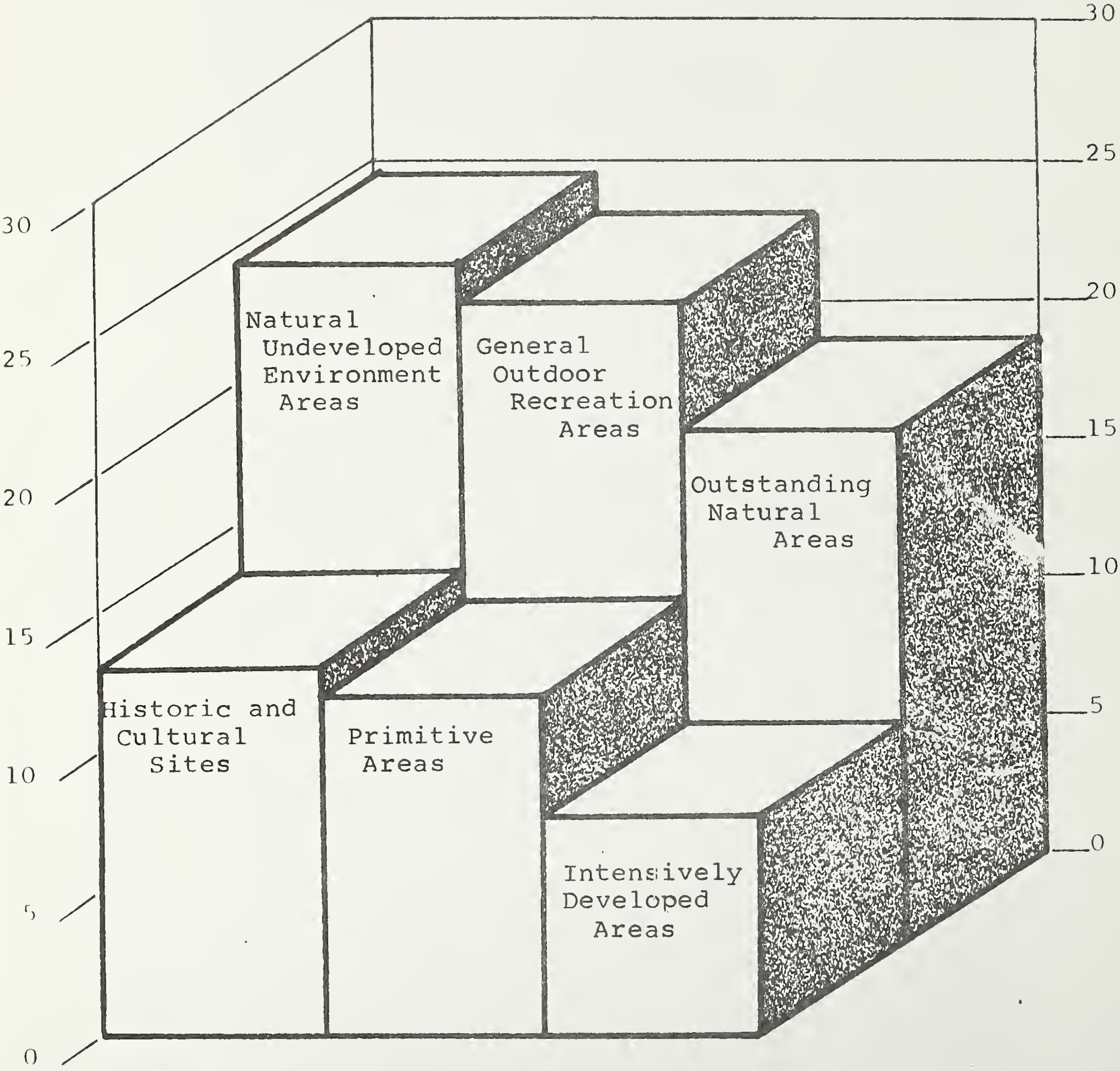
Participation in Activities By Months



Winter Activities

PLANNING REGION 4

references for Selected Types of Recreation Areas by Montana Residents
Yearly Totals



Numbers indicate a weighted percent based on the number of responses to first, second, and third preferences.

The following table tabulates facilities available for recreation in the municipalities of Chester and Harlem.

MUNICIPAL FACILITIES

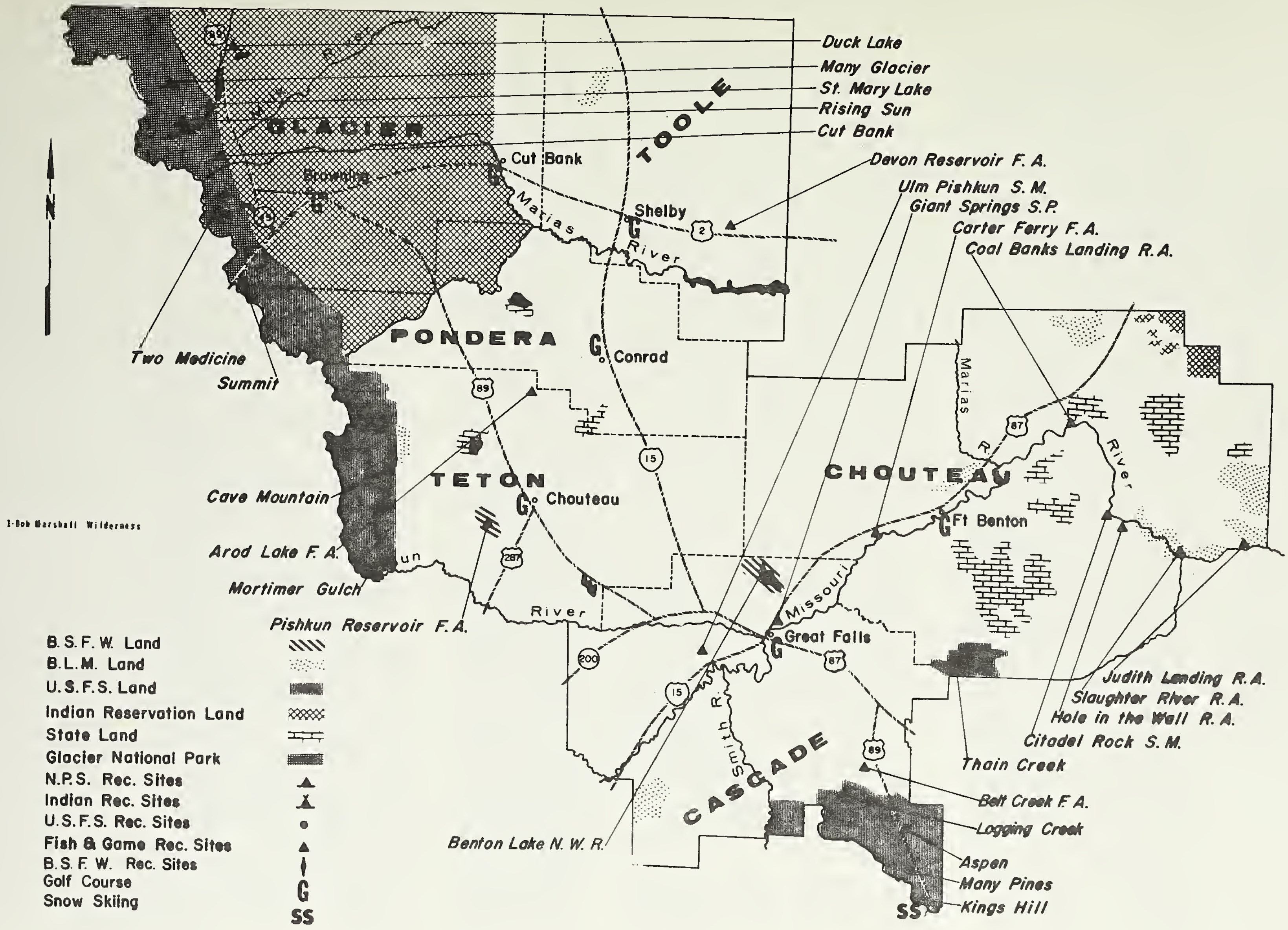
MUNICIPALITIES	1970 POPULATION	1972 PARK ACREAGE	Golf	Swimming Pool	Tennis	Multi-Purpose Courts	Baseball or Softball	Football	Children's Playgrounds	Large All Purpose Playfields	Picnic Areas	Designated Bike Trails	Indoor Recreation Centers	Facilities for the Handicapped	Special Accommodations for the Handicapped
Chester	936	N/A		x	x	x	x								
	Facility Needs:								N		N		N		
Harlem	1,094	150		x			x		x	x	x		x		
	Facility Needs:			N			N		N	N	N		N		
	Facility Needs:														
	Facility Needs:														
	Facility Needs:														
	Facility Needs:														
	Facility Needs:														

Recreation and parks expenditures, which include money for maintenance operation, personnel, acquisition, and development are tabulated below:

MUNICIPAL EXPENDITURES

	F. Y. 1970	F. Y. 1971	F. Y. 1972
Chester	$ 3,000	$ 4,000	$ 3,500
Harlem	N/A	N/A	N/A

N/A = information not available


Duck Lake
Many Glacier
St. Mary Lake
Rising Sun
Cut Bank
Devon Reservoir F. A.
Ulm Pishkun S. M.
Giant Springs S.P.
Carter Ferry F. A.
Coal Banks Landing R. A.
GLACIER
TOOLE
Cut Bank
Browning
Shelby
Marias
River
PONDERA
Conrad
Two Medicine
Summit
Marias
R.
River
CHOUTEAU
TETON
Chouteau
Ft Benton
Cave Mountain
Arod Lake F. A.
Mortimer Gulch
Pishkun Reservoir F. A.
1-Bob Marshall Wilderness
River
Missouri
Great Falls
Smith R.
CASCADE
Judith Landing R. A.
Slaughter River R. A.
Hole in the Wall R. A.
Citadel Rock S. M.
Thain Creek
Belt Creek F. A.
Logging Creek
Aspen
Many Pines
Kings Hill
Benton Lake N. W. R.
2
15
89
87
287
200
B. S. F. W. Land
B. L. M. Land
U. S. F. S. Land
Indian Reservation Land
State Land
Glacier National Park
N. P. S. Rec. Sites
Indian Rec. Sites
U. S. F. S. Rec. Sites
Fish & Game Rec. Sites
B. S. F. W. Rec. Sites
Golf Course
Snow Skiing
G
SS
N

PLANNING REGION 5

REGION 5

SUMMARY OF MAJOR RECREATION PROBLEMS

Residents of the region are fortunate in several significant respects. They are within easy travel distance of major recreational resources such as Glacier Park, the Bob Marshall Wilderness, both units of the Lewis and Clark National Forest, including the popular and convenient Kings Hill Ski area near Monarch. The Highwood Mountains are so situated that their use is primarily local residents. The Missouri River transects the region, providing excellent fishing and a section of wild and scenic river as well.

Despite these advantages, there are several considerations which are problems of varying degrees. The proximity of Glacier means that there is an impact on the region of out-of-state visitors, bringing both economic benefit and a congestion of use at favored areas. Upon closer inspection, access to the forests is very limited in given areas and is becoming even more difficult as time goes on. Thus the forest visitor, including the hunter, is obliged to take circuitous routes to get to a desired location. While the Highwood Mountains are near, access is relatively limited. While there are access points on the Missouri, there are additional segments on which access would be desirable.

There is a lack of facilities close to the smaller communities, facilities suitable for day use activities in a natural environment area. Near Great Falls, particularly, additional day use sites would be desirable for those who do not have the mobility noted elsewhere. Facilities close to cities and towns, are of course, primarily a local responsibility.

Given the popularity of hunting, the private landowner suffers trespass and damage, and the hunter in turn is more restricted. Water, a limited resource in given area, is prized by both agriculture and the recreationists, and is the source of controversy regarding its use. Dewatering and siltation of streams limits fishing opportunities for desirable fish, indicating that attention should be given to water use practices which would be least damaging to water quality. Smaller ponds for fishing and limited water sports would be advantageous to residents of local communities.

REGION 5

GEOGRAPHIC, POPULATION AND HISTORIC CHARACTERISTICS

No other region in the state dramatizes so clearly as does this one the transition from the mountains to the plains. The visitor from Glacier Park, heading east, descends rapidly from high country and within a relatively few miles embarks upon the vastness of the plains which dominate the eastern two-thirds of the state. The dramatic Rocky Mountain front forms a panoramic backdrop for the region, with the foothills merging quickly into the plateaus and grazing lands. In turn, the plainsman or traveler heading west is equally impressed with the beckoning ranges, snow capped and contrasting sharply with golden wheat fields or the gray-green hills of the cattle ranges.

The topographic features of Region 5 include extensive areas of flat to rolling plains, much of which is suitable for cultivation. Much of the plains area was subjected to Continental glaciation of the Wisconsin stage about 15,000 years ago. In addition to the smoothing and scouring effect of glaciation, deposits from two extensive glacial period lakes near Cut Bank and Great Falls added to the flatness of this region. In this triangular area with its corners in Glacier, Cascade and Hill (region 4) counties, only the rivers cutting below the surface of the plain create relief. At the western and southern peripheries of the region is located the only real mountainous terrain. On the western edge is the Lewis Range of Glacier National Park and the Sawtooth Range, both of which act as "front" ranges for the mountains to the west. These mountains were formed by vertical uplifting and are generally of sedimentary origin. The mountains to the south are the northern extremities of the Big Belt and Little Belt mountains and have a mixed origin, part being of volcanic extrusives, part sedimentary. Mountain glaciation occurred only in the mountains along the western edge of Region 5, in particular in Glacier National Park. A small portion of the Bear Paw Mountains touches the east part of Region 5.

Natural vegetation in the plains area of the region where not cultivated, consists primarily of undifferentiated grassland such as grama grass, wheat grass and needle grass. Moving into the foothills to the west, south and the east to a slight degree, foothill grasslands and sagebrush are encountered, before reaching the coniferous forest. The coniferous forest in the west and south parts are predominately lodgepole pine, ponderosa pine and non-commercial alpine species interspersed with alpine meadow. In the Bear Paws, open woodland ponderosa pine is encountered. Some cottonwoods and willows typically line the rivers in this region.

Major water resources in Region 5 are based primarily on the rivers and streams which are abundant. The Missouri

River, being the most prominent, flows from the southwest to the northeast, and has many tributaries. These are the Marias, the Teton, the Sun, the Dearborn and the Smith. Much of the length of these rivers are within this region. The headwaters of the Milk and St. Mary's River (which flows to Hudson's Bay) are found in the northwest corner of the region near Glacier National Park.

Climatic conditions in Region 5 generally approximate conditions found elsewhere on the plains, with a pattern of spring and summer maximum rainfall and greater temperature extremes. Only in the mountainous areas at the edges of the region are there greater rainfall and snowfall, more moist conditions and cooler temperatures. Occasional chinooks influence the winter weather, bringing a warming trend from the mountains to the west.

The population in Region 5 is 117,626 according to the official 1970 census. County totals are listed below:

REGION 5 POPULATION DISTRIBUTION

County	Persons
Cascade	81,804
Choteau	6,473
Glacier	10,783
Pondera	6,611
Teton	6,116
Toole	5,839
Region Total	117,626

A majority of the population is located in and near the urban center of Great Falls (population 60,091). The remainder of the population is dispersed rather evenly through the region with other major centers of population at Cut Bank (population 4,004), Shelby (population 3,111), Conrad (population 2,770), Fort Benton (population 1,863), Browning (population 1,700) and Choteau (population 1,586). The urban population of this region is 80,790 which is 69% of the total region population. There is a sizable minority population of American Indians in this region. They number approximately 7,000 although as a percentage of the region total, they are only 6%. The majority are of the Blackfeet tribe and are located in Glacier County.

While the rest of the region lost population since 1960, Cascade County and its urban center, Great Falls, gained significantly illustrating the trend of rural-to-urban migration. Cascade County gained 11% since 1960 while population in Glacier County was down 7%, Choteau County down 12%, Pondera County down 14%, Teton County down 16% and Toole County down 26%.

Transportation facilities in this region are excellent with a major international airport at Great Falls, The region is also served by rail, including Amtrack along the northern section, and by major highways Interstate 15 north and south through Great Falls, and U.S. highways 2, 87 and 89 traversing the area.

The regional economy is heavily oriented toward agriculture, with wheat and other grain crops predominating on the rich, flat farm lands. Additionally, Great Falls is a major manufacturing center for the state producing both durable and non-durable goods. It is also a transportation, trade and finance center for the state. Some refining of mineral ores also takes place in Great Falls. Malmstrom Air Force Base, a major military establishment, is located just east of the city and creates a substantial impact on the community.

Public land in Region 5 accounts for a fair proportion of all land in the region. The following table indicates the percentage of public land in each county in Region 5:

PUBLIC LAND IN REGION 5 *

County	Percentage	Square Miles
Cascade	18.1	482
Choteau	16.4	647
Clacier	21.5	647
Pondera	16.0	263
Teton	27.2	626
Toole	11.4	225
	18.6	2,890

* Does not include local government land

The public land holdings in this region are administered as follows:

PUBLIC LAND ADMINISTRATION - REGION 5

Agency	Land (Acres)
Federal	
U.S. Forest Service	576,287
National Park Service	379,336
Bureau of Land Management	187,529

Bureau of Reclamation	33,610
U.S. Air Force	14,152
Bureau of Sport Fisheries & Wildlife	12,897
Total	1,203,811

State

Dept. of State Lands (not including State Forests	611,112
Montana Dept. of Fish & Game	30,252
Office of the State Forester	2,013
Total	643,377

Indian Reservation Land

Blackfeet Reservation	1,260,000
Rocky Boy Reservation	55,000
Total	1,315,000

Local

Community Parks (Fort Benton, Cut Bank, Belt)	50

Regional Points of Interest

Glacier National Park

The eastern portion of this glaciated mountainous area lies in Region 5. The "Going-to-the-Sun" highway crosses Logan Pass overlooking spectacular scenery in this National Park.

Museum of the Plains Indian, Browning

A noteworthy exhibition and crafts center portrays the life of the Northern Plains Indian. Located on the Blackfeet Reservation.

Great Falls

In and near this primary urban center of Montana are the Great Falls of the Missouri, discovered by Lewis and Clark in 1805; Giant Springs; College of Great Falls; Malmstrom Air Force Base and cowboy artist C. M. Russell's Home and Studio.

Fort Benton

This old trading center was founded in 1846. It began as a fur trading post, then became a military post and the head of steamboat travel on the Missouri River.

Historic Sites

This region's history is diversified with significant historic sites relating to the early fur trade, early Indian tribes, the military campaigns of the late 1800's, early missionary work, commerce and exploration by Lewis and Clark and others.

Western art is exemplified by the Charles M. Russell home and studio in Great Falls where he occupied this residence from 1900 until his death in 1926. The log studio where he painted was added in 1903 and work produced here brought him full recognition as a western artist.

Nearby is the route of the Great Falls Portage which was undertaken by the Lewis and Clark expedition on June 13, 1805. The "falls" of the Missouri were discovered at this time and necessitated an 18 mile, 31-day portage by the expedition, one of the greatest ordeals faced on the whole journey. The "falls" in the area have now been harnessed for hydroelectric power.

Fort Benton commemorates the steamboat era on the upper Missouri River. The fort's real prosperity dates from 1859, when the first steamboat arrived, some time after the site was a noted fur-trading center. Discovery of gold in 1862 made Fort Benton an overland transportation connection with the river steamers. The town became the center of operations for the "free traders" of the 1870's. When the railroads pushed into Montana, river traffic and the importance of Fort Benton declined. Much of historic Fort Benton survives and is part of an historic district.

The northernmost point reached by the Lewis and Clark expedition, Camp Disappointment, was established by M. Lewis and nine of his men on July 23, 1806. Being on the return trip from the Pacific, the purpose of the trip was to explore an Indian trail and to determine if the Marias River extended north of the 49th parallel. The site is an undeveloped area little changed since 1806 except for grazing of cattle.

Below is a summary chart listing the major historic sites in Region 5

Historic Site	County	Significant Date	Significance
Black Eagle Dam	Cascade	1891	Engineering
Blackfoot Agency I	Cascade	1858	Hist-aboriginal
Blackfoot-Crow Battle on Sun River	Cascade	1836	Hist-aboriginal
Robert S. Ford Ranch	Cascade	1871	Agriculture
Fort Shaw	Cascade	1867	Military
NR-NHL Great Falls Portage	Cascade	1805	Exploration
Joseph K. Howard House	Cascade	mid 20th C.	Literature
NR-NHL C. M. Russell House & Studio	Cascade	1900	Art
St. Peter's Mission	Cascade	1861	Hist-aboriginal
O. J. Seltzer House	Cascade	1930	Art
Ulm Pishkun	Cascade	900 A.D.	Prehist-aboriginal
NR-NHL Fort Benton	Chouteau	1859	Commerce
NR Fort Benton Historic Dist.	Chouteau	1847	Commerce/Military
Citadel Rock	Chouteau	1800's	Transportation
Coal Banks Landing	Chouteau	1860's	Transportation
Dunes Site	Chouteau	early-prehist.	Prehist-aboriginal
Fisk Overland Trail	Chouteau et al	1860's	Transportation
Flathead-Blackfoot 1846 Negotiation Site	Chouteau	1846	Hist-aboriginal
Fort Benton-Confederate Gulch Road	Chouteau et al	1860's	Commerce
Fort Benton-Helena Road	Chouteau et al	1860's	Commerce
Fort F. A. Chardon	Chouteau	1843	Commerce
Fort Cotton	Chouteau	1842	Commerce
Fort Lewis	Chouteau	1844	Commerce
Fort McKenzie	Chouteau	1832	Commerce
Fort Piegan	Chouteau	1832	Commerce
Hole-in-the-Wall	Chouteau	1800's	Transportation
Mullan Road	Chouteau et al	1853	Commerce
Ophir Massacre Site	Chouteau	1865	Commerce
Pablo Rapids	Chouteau	1864	Transportation
Steamboat Rock	Chouteau	1800's	Transportation
Steven's 1855 Treaty Site	Chouteau	1855	Hist-aboriginal
Whoop-Up Trail	Chouteau et al	1880's	Transportation
Billy Big Spring	Glacier	mid-prehist.	Prehist-aboriginal
Blackfoot Agency III	Glacier	1874	Hist-aboriginal
Blackfoot Agency IV	Glacier	1895	Hist-aboriginal
Boarding School Bison Drive St	Glacier	mid-prehist.	Prehist-aboriginal
NR-NHL Camp Disappointment	Glacier	1806	Political/Exploration
Holy Family Mission	Glacier	1877	Hist-aboriginal
Robare	Pondera	1876	Commerce
NR Two Medicine Fight Site	Pondera	1806	Hist-aborig/explor.
Blackfoot Agency II	Teton	1869	Hist-aboriginal
Chouteau Buffalo Jump	Teton	Mid-prehist.	Prehist-aboriginal
A.B. Guthrie Jr. Home	Teton	Mid-20th C.	Literature
Priest Butte	Teton	1850's	Religious
Baker's Massacre on the Marias	Toole	1870	Military
Fort Conrad	Toole	1875	Commerce
Gold Butte	Toole	1885	Industry

NR - Site listed on the National Register of Historic Places
NHL - Site is a National Historic Landmark

CHARACTERISTICS OF RECREATION USE

Leisure Time in Region 5

Outdoor recreation activities for residents of Region 5 ranked somewhat behind indoor spectator activities which ranked number one. Home-related activities, such as gardening, shop work, etc. ranked in third place. Outdoor recreation was engaged in most frequently in May and July; least frequently in September. Over a twelve-month period the greatest amount of leisure time available for Region 5 residents was indicated for May and February, whereas the least amount of leisure time was available in September.

Outdoor recreation reached a yearly peak in late spring and early summer. In the spring it was exceeded in popularity by self-improvement activities, home-related activities and indoor play activities. During the summer it was number one in popularity. During December, January and February outdoor recreation was exceeded in popularity by all other leisure time activities.

(For a more complete graphic account see Appendix.)

The Characteristics and Viewpoints of the Park User in Region 5

Non-residents were the predominant users of recreation facilities in Region 5 by 3 to 1. Of the 75% who were non-residents the majority undoubtedly were users of facilities in and near Glacier National Park in the northwest corner of this region. Of the 25% who were resident users, 16%, the largest number, came from Cascade County within Planning Region 5. Resident users originating in other Montana counties within or outside of Region 5 were relatively small percentages. This indicates the majority of resident users of facilities in Region 5 probably came from the Great Falls area. Only about 20% of those originating in Great Falls remain within Planning Region 5 to recreate. Other popular regions for recreation chosen by residents of the Great Falls area were the Missoula area, the Helena and Canyon Ferry area and the the Bozeman and vicinity areas. Planning Region 5 had a higher percentage of non-resident use than any other planning region in Montana. The most prevalent recreation party size was two persons closely followed by four persons per party.

The length of stay be recreationists in Planning Region 5 varied considerably from regions to the east. Day use was practically negligible and rated lower than any other planning region. More lengthy stays, especially from two to seven days, were by far the more prevalent for users of recreation areas in this region. Natural beauty was given most often as the reason for selecting a recreation area in Region 5; it attained a higher percentage as a choice than in any other region in the state. There is undoubtedly a relationship between natural beauty being first choice for choosing recreation areas in this region and the presence of the eastern portion of Glacier National Park. The second most popular reason given for choosing an area was that certain desired recreation activities could be engaged in. Facility conditions in Region 5 sere generally rated on a par or slightly above state average. Environmental factors at recreation areas in Region 5 were rated generally above the state average, especially regarding the amount of space, level of maintenance, convenience of facilities and natural beauty of the areas. Approximately 35% of all those respondents surveyed indicated a need for additional recreation facilities or activities at selected recreation areas in Region 5.

Camping, resting and relaxing, sightseeing, hiking, driving and walking for pleasure were the most frequently engaged in activities by recreationists in Region 5. Water-oriented activities did not appear to be engaged in to any high degree by recreationists in this region. The most preferred activity as stated by recreationists in this region was hiking. The other activity showing a gain in preference over actual participation was fishing. Camping, resting and relaxing and sightseeing all dropped slightly in stated preference.

Implications

1. Indications are that provisions for recreationists to stay longer periods of time, expecially in the vicinity of Glacier National Park would be in order. Day use was not engaged in to a high degree by users in this region, although day use near Great Falls is probably more popular than indicated.

2. The high incidence of use by non-residents particularly in Glacier National Park vicinity would indicate that different needs and desires might be the case. A study of non-resident preferences and use would be desirable.

3. Family use and small groups dominate in most recreation areas in this region and this should be considered when designing such facilities for recreation.

4. Because of the choice of a recreation area being so closely related to the natural beauty of an area this factor should be considered when development of future recreation areas are contemplated. The provision for activities which can be engaged in at these sites should also be a strong consideration. Most recreation areas in this region are serving recreationists who come long distances and expect to remain for lengthy periods in areas of high scenic beauty.

5. The condition of facilities and of environmental factors is already at a reasonably high point for most areas in this region and little can be done to improve present conditions.

The Montana Resident

Characteristics of the resident respondents can be found in the Appendix. These data include the respondents marital status, sex, age, household status, employment, vacation allowance, available time and general health.

Tables following, indicate the frequency of participation in various activities by those surveyed and is a measure of popularity in Region 5.

Fair correlation exists between the recreation activities residents engaged in and those indicated as most preferred. Driving for pleasure ranked first both in participation and preference and sightseeing ranked third in participation and preference. Some other activities ranked very closely in these two categories. Fishing moved up slightly in preference whereas walking for pleasure moved down slightly. Hunting and camping moved up slightly in preference as did motor bike riding and horseback riding. Conversely, picnicking, playing outdoor games and bicycling moved down slightly in preference even though they were engaged in to a higher degree than preferred.

Fishing was the most popular water-oriented activity and was relatively popular through the year dropping only slightly in spring and fall. Its popularity was not exceeded throughout the year by other water-oriented activities. Swimming and motor boating were the second and third most popular water sports. In winter sports snowmobiling was the most popular and was not exceeded in popularity.

Sightseeing was, of course, a popular recreation activity. Picnicking and camping and playing outdoor games were nearly as popular, especially through the warm summer months. Sightseeing's popularity was consistent throughout the year. Walking for pleasure was by far the most popular activity of its nature reaching peaks in the colder months. It was exceeded only by fall hunting in popularity. In those activities where a vehicle of some nature is needed, driving for pleasure far exceeded other activities in popularity. It reached a low point in the warm summer months but never was close to being exceeded in popularity by other activities. Other activities such as bicycling, motor bike riding, backcountry touring in a 4-wheel drive vehicle or horseback riding were relatively consistent in popularity throughout the year. (For a detailed graphic account see Appendix.)

The type of recreation area most preferred by residents of Region 5 was the natural environment area with a minimum of development. The second most popular were general outdoor recreation areas such as state parks, forest campgrounds and other developed areas with facilities for camping, picnicking, boating, etc. Reflecting the proximity of the Bob

Marshall Wilderness Area and Glacier National Park, outstanding natural areas and primitive areas were the third and fourth most preferred types of areas for region residents. (See Appendix for further details.)

Implications

1. Driving for pleasure is indicated as being the most popular activity for residents of Region 5. Associated sightseeing is also rated quite high. Although new roads to accommodate driving for pleasure and sightseeing are certainly not necessarily desirable, facilities to enhance driving for pleasure on existing roads should be considered. Roads in Glacier National Park already exhibit some of the desirable features to enhance driving and sightseeing such as overlooks, points of interest with interpretive signs, rest stops, and interesting roads. Driving for pleasure and sightseeing as recreation activities will in the future be major problems especially in the more popular park and scenic areas of not only Region 5 but other areas in the state.

2. Facilities and accommodations for walking, fishing, picnicking and backcountry camping may be more easily provided in the future, both in the more popular areas and other areas of public land. The impact of walking trails, hiking trails and access to rivers and lakes for fishing undoubtedly creates less of an impact on the environment and should be planned for the more popular public areas.

3. Snowmobiling, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing and sledding are winter activities which could be accommodated in the more mountainous areas of this region. In some areas such as in Glacier National Park they already are participated in to a relatively high degree. Kings Hill with its snowskiing facilities and the snowskiing facilities northwest of Chouteau also provide excellent places for winter sports, especially downhill snowskiing.

4. The popularity of water-oriented activities would indicate that more access to the Missouri River and other lakes and rivers in the region should be provided. Consideration for fishing access based on its popularity should be of prime importance.

5. Children's activities which should receive greater attention are bicycling, fishing, swimming and playing outdoor games, (especially in cities and towns).

6. Region 5 residents prefer natural undeveloped environment areas, outstanding natural areas such as Glacier, and primitive areas. In addition, general outdoor recreation areas where there are many facilities are also popular for residents of this region. Continued and increased access to public lands of forests and mountain terrain should be assured. Developed camping, boating, swimming and other facilities should continue to be developed at key scenic locations.

Much of the recreation presently taking place within the region probably occurs in the forested and mountainous regions to the northwest, south and a little to the east. More recreation facilities should be provided in the vicinity of Great Falls in particular. The potential of the Missouri River for recreation should also be capitalized upon.

Problems and Potentials for Recreation in Region 5

Driving is pleasurable in many areas in Region 5. In particular the Missouri River and mountainous areas to the west and south offer the greatest interest for this activity. Existing roads offer the greatest opportunity to engage in this activity.

Walking for pleasure, the second most popular activity, should be enhanced at points of interest throughout the region and in the cities and towns. Development of walkways, rest stops, interpretive devices and landscaping all enhance walking, and Great Falls would be a prime area for such development to take place. In particular the Missouri River should be utilized to offer both walking and other passive recreation activities. The Forest Service is considering certain trail closures to motor vehicles to enhance such things as walking and hiking. Walking trails would also be desirable along the shores of certain lakes. It is not planned that Glacier Park would provide for local needs in these categories.

Sightseeing has the greatest potential in the mountains to the west and the Little Belt Mountains to the south of Great Falls as well as along the Missouri River where there presently are roads. Developments similar to those undertaken to enhance driving for pleasure can also be done for sightseeing.

Fishing in Region 5 is very popular but access to public waters is a problem in given areas. There is a wide variety of fishing experiences from high mountain lakes to lakes on the plains to major rivers in the region.

Picnicking, another popular activity for residents, is an activity usually done within a relatively small radius from an urban area. Increases in this activity are noted every year for the city of Great Falls but more accommodations for picnicking on the Missouri River would be desirable. Much use is already evident at Ryan Dam on the Missouri River. Nearby Benton Wildlife Refuge recognizes the demand for picnicking and camping, but these activities must be closely related to the primary goals of the wildlife refuge, which is management of waterfowl and game. A few of the more popular areas for picnicking that Great Falls recreationists use are the Benchmark area, King's Hill, the Highwood Mountains and Holter Lake. The Smith River area is a possible area for greater day use, but presently access is limited.

Off-trail vehicles such as 4-wheel drive vehicles and motor bikes present a major problem to the vegetation and soil in this region. These activities are not necessarily confined to public land in this region, but irate private land owners may eventually channelize use to public areas. Greater control to avoid damage to the environment will eventually have to be taken on these public lands.

Hunting in Region 5 has high potential. Major problems for hunting are the rights of the provate land owner being abused by public hunters, and access to public lands through lands in private ownership. A need for public shooting ranges has evidenced the possibility of such development by the U.S. Air Force at Malmstrom Air Base. This possibility should be explored.

New campground developments by public agencies in Region 5 appear to be somewhat limited in the near future. More information on the use and needs of campers is a prerequisite for further development. In the northwest part of the region the Blackfeet Tribal Council is planning a large recreation complex on reservation land near St. Mary's Lake. This type of development may help take pressure off some of the campgrounds within Glacier National Park. There is a problem related to logging forest land in the vicinity of St. Mary's Lake. Considerable scenic value might possibly be destroyed in the process.

Bicycling in Region 5 is generally confined to the urban or town areas. Very little bicycling is presently done on Forest Service land. The demand in cities for bicycle ways appears to be evident and relatively high. Perhaps a bicycle trail from Giant Springs to the urban area of Great Falls would be a feasible and highly used trail. River floating has good potential on some rivers. In particular, the Smith River and Missouri River offer excellent river floating.

Winter sports such as snowmobiling, snow skiing, snowshoeing, sledding, etc. have much potentail expecially in the mountainous areas to the west and south. Presently there is a snow skiing facility at Teton Pass 36 miles northwest of Chouteau and at King's Hill, 65 miles south of Great Falls. These areas offer the downhill skier excellent areas in which to participate in this sport. Much snowmobiling is also done in the Glacier National Park vicinity and the King's Hill vicinity. Further accommodations might be provided in the future as demand increases for these activities.

Water sports, while not as popular in Region 5 as in some other regions, may still be engaged in at various lakes and rivers throughout the region. Fishing, in particular, is one of the more popular activities. More fishing access sites are needed in meeting demand for this activity by Region 5 residents.

Inventory of Facilities

In Region 5, the major public agencies which provide recreation areas, facilities and land for public recreation use are the National Park Service, the U. S. Forest Service, and the Montana Department of Fish and Game. The Bureau of Land Management also has considerable public land holdings but no developed facilities at present. The Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife and the Indian reservation are both involved in supplying recreation to a lesser degree. Major areas with selected facilities are summarized below:

FEDERAL AND STATE RECREATION AREAS - REGION 5

Federal	Picnic Units	Camping Units	Swimming	Fishing	Boat Ramp
National Park Service					
Cut Bank	0	22	0	X	0
Many Glacier	0	117	0	X	X
Rising Sun	0	82	0	X	X
St. Mary Lake	0	156	0	X	X
Two Medicine	0	99	0	X	X
Total	0	476	0	5	4
U. S. Forest Service (as of March 1, 1974)					
Lewis and Clark N.F.					
Aspen	0	6	0	X	0
Cave Mountain	0	14	0	X	0
Kings Hill	3	15	0	X	0
Logging Creek	1	15	0	X	0
Many Pines	0	23	0	X	0
Mortimer Gulch	0	20	0	X	X
Summit	0	21	0	X	0
Thain Creek	7	13	0	X	0
Total	11	127	0	8	1
Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife					
Benton Lake NWR	5	0	0	0	0
Total	5	0	0	0	0

State

Montana Fish and Game Department

Arod Lake FAS	5	0	0	X	0
Pishkun Reservoir FAS	3	0	X	X	X
Belt Creek FAS	0	0	0	X	0
Citadel Rock SM	0	0	0	X	0
Hole-in-the-Wall SRA	0	0	0	X	0
Slaughter River SRA	0	0	0	X	0
Judith Landing SRA	4	4	0	X	0
Coal Banks LandingSRA	3	0	0	X	X
Carter Ferry FAS	0	0	0	X	0
Giant Springs SP	20	0	0	X	0
Ulm Pishkun SM	0	0	0	0	0
Pishkun Res. FAS	0	0	0	X	0
Devon Res. FAS	0	0	0	X	0
Total	35	4	1	12	2

Indian Reservations

Duck Lake	10	10	0	X	X
Total	10	10	0	1	1
Total Selected Facilities Region 5	57	617	1	21	8

THE LEWIS AND CLARK FOREST

The Lewis and Clark Forest, overlying the Little Belt Mountains, is of major significance to the residents of this region and to out-of-state visitors as well. While technically, less than a third of the forest is found within this region (177,262 acres in Cascade County) the easy access by means of U.S. Highway 89 and the proximity of the entire forest results in general use of the entire resource area. Highway 89 is an important route between Yellowstone and Glacier and this will continue to increase the impact upon the forest.

As with some other forests, the number of developed areas is rather limited, resulting in dispersed recreational use taking place over a broad area. Developed areas significant to the region include Logging Creek Campground on Logging Creek, and Many Pines and Kings Hill Campground on Highway 89. Most prominent development is of course the winter recreation area of Kings Hill, containing an excellent ski facility. In the winter of 1970 and 1971 over 53,000 visitors used the ski facility, with additional thousands coming to participate in snowshoeing, cross country skiing, snowmobiling and simply to observe the overall activity. Snowmobiles increase the access to other sports as well as serving as a primary activity for many. Parking and sanitation for the snowmobiler is a basic problem in addition to concern for damage to wildlife, young trees and vegetative cover generally. All of the referenced activities are increasing markedly each year. The popularity of the area stems from the excellent snow conditions and access. Snowfalls in these mountains provide both early and late opportunities and result in sufficient depth to sustain enormous activity.

Important fishing waters in the planning region segment of the forest include Belt Creek, Logging Creek, Sheep Creek and Pilgrim Creek. The latter stream provides a cutthroat trout fishery of some significance in that it is excellent for fishing. Its tributaries on adjoining lands have been severely damaged from mining activity of some time ago with recovery uncertain. The forest cover, vegetation and soil conditions altogether result in a watershed producing a high recreational quality in addition to providing fishing. Because of the importance of the water, its management will always be a major factor in recreation management. Three communities in the region depend entirely upon this forest for their water supply.

Hunting is general throughout the area. Mule deer are the most prominent but elk and moose are present and are avidly sought in this region. The management of roaded and unroaded areas relative to hunting is a definite problem in this forest. Heavy use on back roads by prospectors, hunters and other recreationists has resulted in damage to vegetative cover and soil erosion problems. Public access to the forest north of the Sun River is extremely limited and poses a definite problem to general public recreation in this public land.

There are a number of caves in the mountains and prominent among them is Lick Creek Cave which receives heavy use from organized groups of spelunkers and university groups interested in geology.

General recreation activity over the forest will continue to be influenced to some degree by other uses in addition to that of the management of the watershed. Livestock forage will continue to be an important product of the forest in view of the importance of agriculture to the states economy.

There are a number of mineralized areas in the Little Belts with considerable interest and activity in this field. Over 26,500 unpatented mining claims and 754 patented claims evidence the administrative problems on these forests relative to that potential. Recent legislation providing for strict controls on land use will help eliminate damage to environmental and aesthetic qualities of the forest as a whole. Paradoxically, past mining activity has been of great interest to the historically minded, while present activity generates definite apprehension on the part of the same people.

The threat of fire is of real concern to the visitor as well as a primary concern of the forest service. There are on this forest a number of overmature stands of timber which are not economically feasible to harvest with the result that they consititute a serious fire hazard in the future. Administrative costs in resolving this problem are one of the factors in limiting somewhat the availability of recreational developments elsewhere on the forest. Disease and mortality as well as fire take their toll of the woodlands prized by both the recreationist and the timber industry. Severe outbreaks of spruce budworm generally, and of mountain pine beetle in the Belt Creek Drainage have had impacts on the quality of the forest environment. A major frostkill in 1969 likewise affected more than 22,000 acres of trees.

HIGHWOOD MOUNTAINS

The Highwood Mountains are a rather small mountain range located approximately 30 miles east of Great Falls. The majority of this area is administered by the Lewis and Clark National Forest.

Although small in size, the area provides an abundance of recreational opportunity. Current recreational pursuits include big game and bird hunting, fishing, hiking, camping, picnicking, sightseeing, etc. Fishing is rather limited and is found primarily in Highwood Creek since most of the numerous streams are very small.

The hiker will find the topography much less formidable for walking than the more dramatic ranges to the west. Trails are found along the major drainages and along the higher ridges to the southwest. The comparative isolation of the Highwoods affords the visitor interesting panoramas of the distant ranges including those of the Bob Marshall Wilderness and the Glacier Peaks.

The area is home to a sizeable elk herd, numerous mule deer and whitetailed deer, two species of forest grouse, many song birds and various species of small game. In addition, the foothills of the Highwoods provide some of the finest sharptailed grouse and Hungarian partridge habitat in the region, as well as good antelope and pheasant habitat.

Vehicular access into the National Forest lands is provided by a North-South road which parallels Highwood and Arrow Creeks. Access into the National Forest along the east side of the Highwoods is very restricted. Trails enter the forest from private lands and follow the more significant drainages. Public access should be acquired to assure permanent access. The trails form a limited network but cover the more attractive areas.

A very real problem currently existing within this area is excessive livestock grazing. Forage clipping and utilization data collected by Fish and Game Department biologists suggest severe overuse of forage along most drainages, the heads of some drainages, and some of the more moderate slopes. The degree to which this excessive livestock grazing is affecting wildlife population in this area is unknown, but severe livestock-wildlife competition definitely is a reality here.

The importance of the livestock economy in the area indicates that forage for the cattle industry will continue to be an important use of this forest unit for the foreseeable future.

MISSOURI RIVER

The Missouri flows for more than 125 miles through the region, leaving the mountains near Cascade then crossing the plains and entering the more rugged breaks country below Fort Benton.

The Missouri has a high quality of water and is an excellent fishery above Great Falls. Below Great Falls the quality tends to diminish as the siltation increases, however, the recreational value is generally maintained.

As the river enters the region access is afforded by several of the sites on the Recreation Road, often in scenic or otherwise interesting settings, thus providing a great deal of fishing and boating, and some floating. Crossing the plains, the river has very limited access despite the recreation attraction of fishing, waterfowl hunting, and boating. The wooded bottomlands are attractive and would provide desirable access to water.

Several parces of state land of some size border the river both above and below Great Falls and these should be investigated for their access potential. As the river enters Great Falls there are several attractive waterfront areas provided by the City Parks Department.

Adjacent to Great Falls is Giant Springs, the largest fresh water springs in the nation, and this is currently under development as a state recreation area. The state fish hatchery at this location will also be renovated with the objective of adding public recreation as one of the attractions. Ryan and Morony Dams owned by Montana Power, also provide public recreation facilities, primarily picnicking. Carters Ferry Fishing Access Site provides access between Great Falls and Fort Benton.

From Fort Benton to the upper reaches of Fort Peck Reservoir, the river is nationally known for its association with the fur trade and steamboat era, and because it still retains much the same character of that time. The river is equally known for the epic journey of Lewis and Clark and present day residents can view much the same scenery as did the explorers and the early settlers who came and stayed to build for statehood. This portion of the river is an understudy as a candidate for the disignation as a wild and scenic river. Upon receiving that status, the river would be preserved and development kept to a minimum, capitalizing upon its undisturbed scenery and its association with the historic past.

The Montana Department of Fish and Game maintains several access sites upon this stretch of the river, namely Coal Banks Landing, Slaughter River, Hole-in-the-Wall and Citadel Rock.

GLACIER NATIONAL PARK

The park is well enough known on a national basis that it does not need further detailed description here. Residents of the region are fortunate in having easy access to this outstanding resource, however, they must look to other resources for their daily or weekend activities, since national parks are not intended to meet local needs, and further, the heavy visitation generally precludes this type of use. Before and after the major tourist season, residents especially enjoy Glacier, although early winter snows shorten the autumn significantly.

The impact of Glacier Park use will continue to increase upon the region, from both the economic aspect and the overflow use generating from the park. As the Park Service places increasing limitation on camping and upon certain backcountry and wilderness type usage, this activity will be sought nearby in the region. Residents, long accustomed to a rather private use of the national forests, face the prospect of adjustment to this increased use. On a national basis, the national forests are expected to play a significant role in meeting national needs.

LAKE FRANCIS RECREATION AREA

The town of Valier owns and administers this very significant recreation area on Lake Francis, a privately owned irrigation reservoir. The federally funded development, open to the general public, provides 25 camping units and approximately 20 family picnic units plus an excellent boat launching facility. In addition to heavy local use, the recreation area serves visitors from Cut Bank, Shelby and Great Falls areas, attracted by the excellent fishing and boating opportunity. The lake will withstand additional fishing pressures.

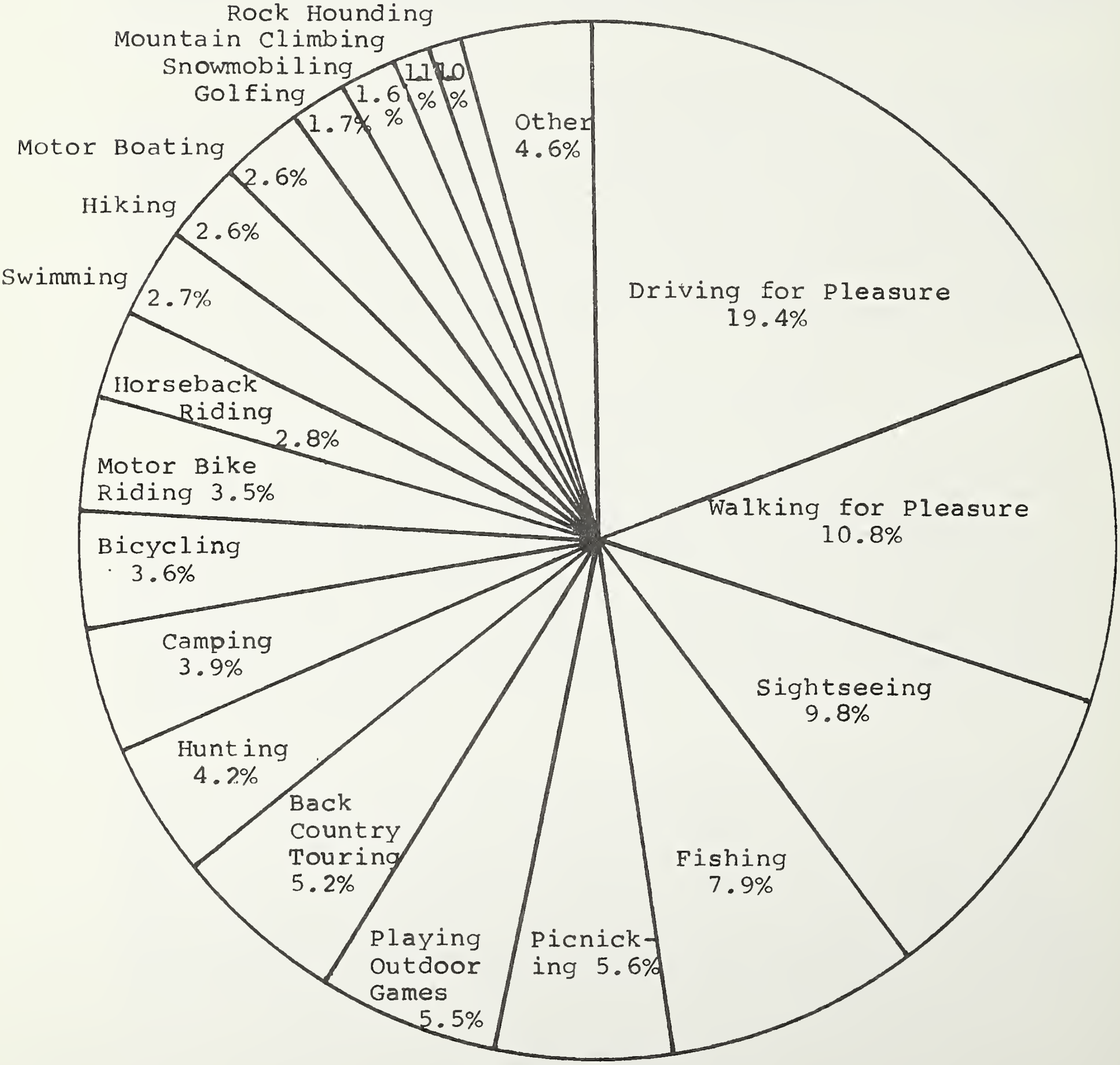
The most critical factor in further development is the need to preserve the high quality of the water since the reservoir is the major source of supply for the City of Conrad. Some additional development will be needed over the next years if anticipated demands continue to increase. Most of this can occur on presently owned public property. Any substantial increase in demand would require additional acquisition and additional modern sewage disposal facilities equal to the present high standard of development.

BELT CREEK

A recent acquisition by the Montana Department of Fish and Game provides over five miles of hiking trail. This hiking and fishing trail will be developed on an abandoned railroad right-of-way. This scenic limestone canyon is unique and is a major recreation potential and is within

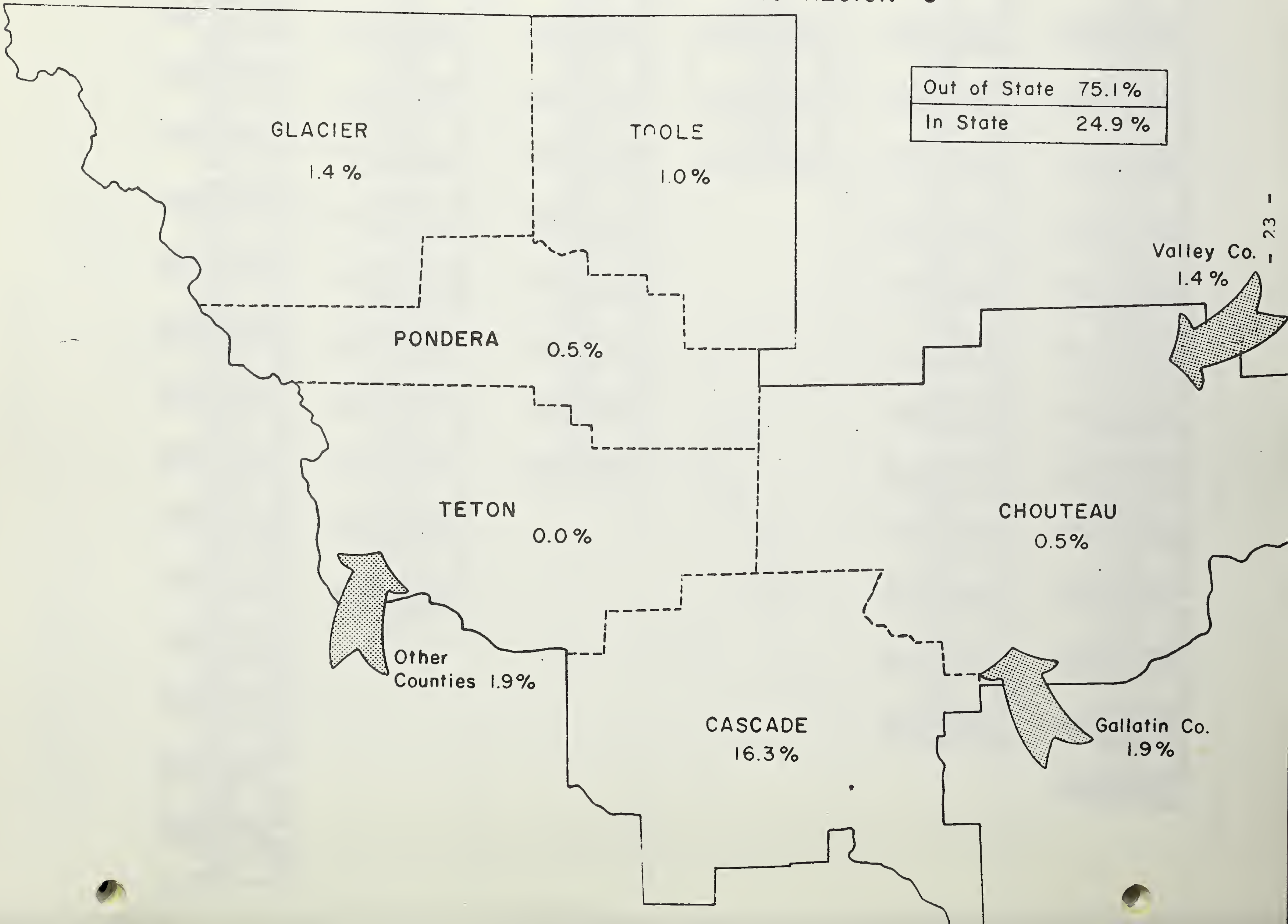
PLANNING REGION 5

Frequency of Participation in Selected Outdoor Recreation Activities by Montana Residents - Yearly Average



The above percentages represent an activity's portion of all recreation time.

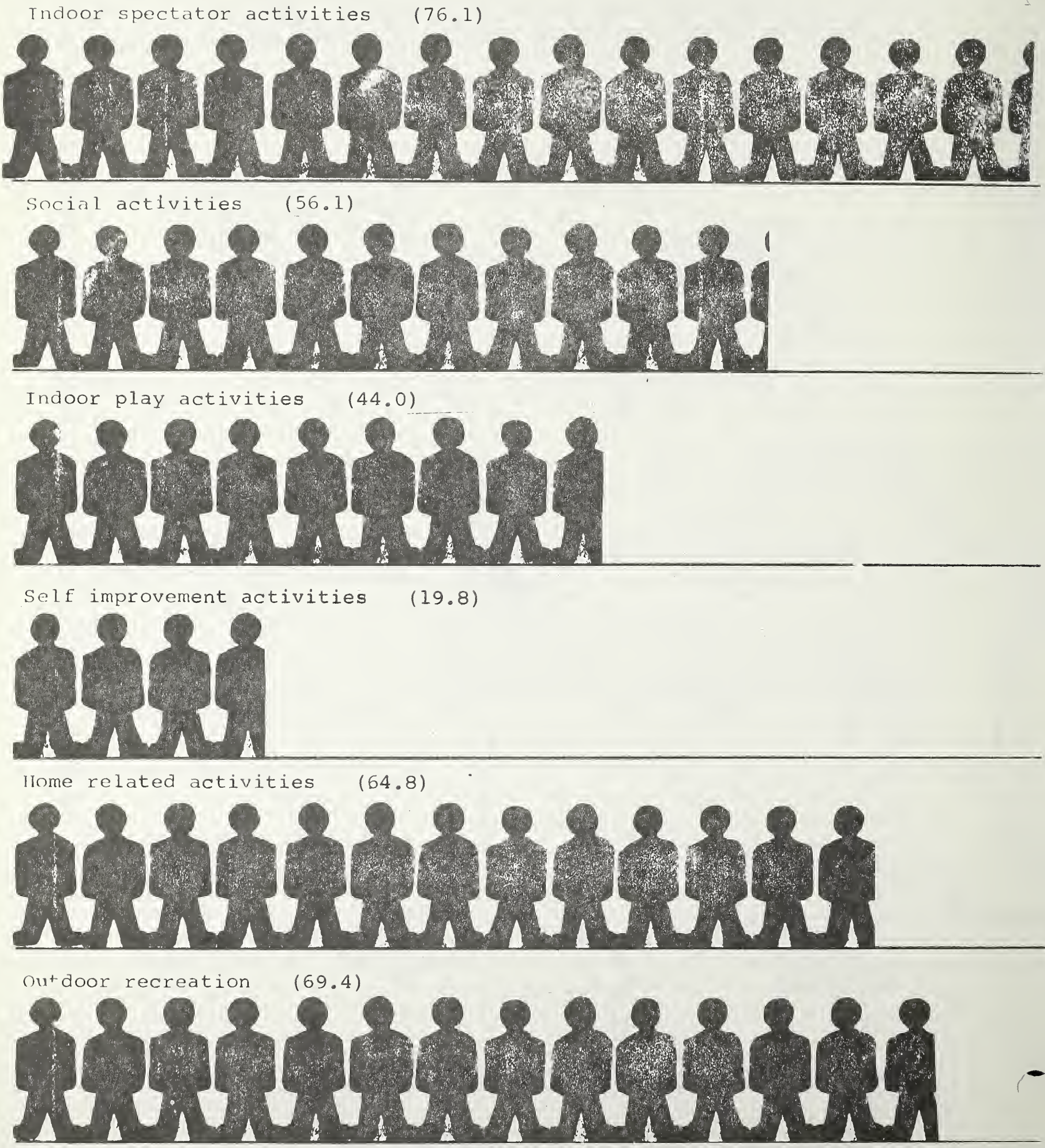
ORIGIN OF PARTIES RECREATING IN PLANNING REGION 5


Out of State 75.1%
In State 24.9 %
GLACIER
1.4 %
TOOLE
1.0 %
PONDERA
0.5 %
TETON
0.0 %
CHOUTEAU
0.5%
CASCADE
16.3 %
Valley Co.
1.4 %
Other
Counties 1.9%
Gallatin Co.
1.9 %

PLANNING REGION 5

Leisure Time Activities Engaged in by Montana Residents - Yearly Average

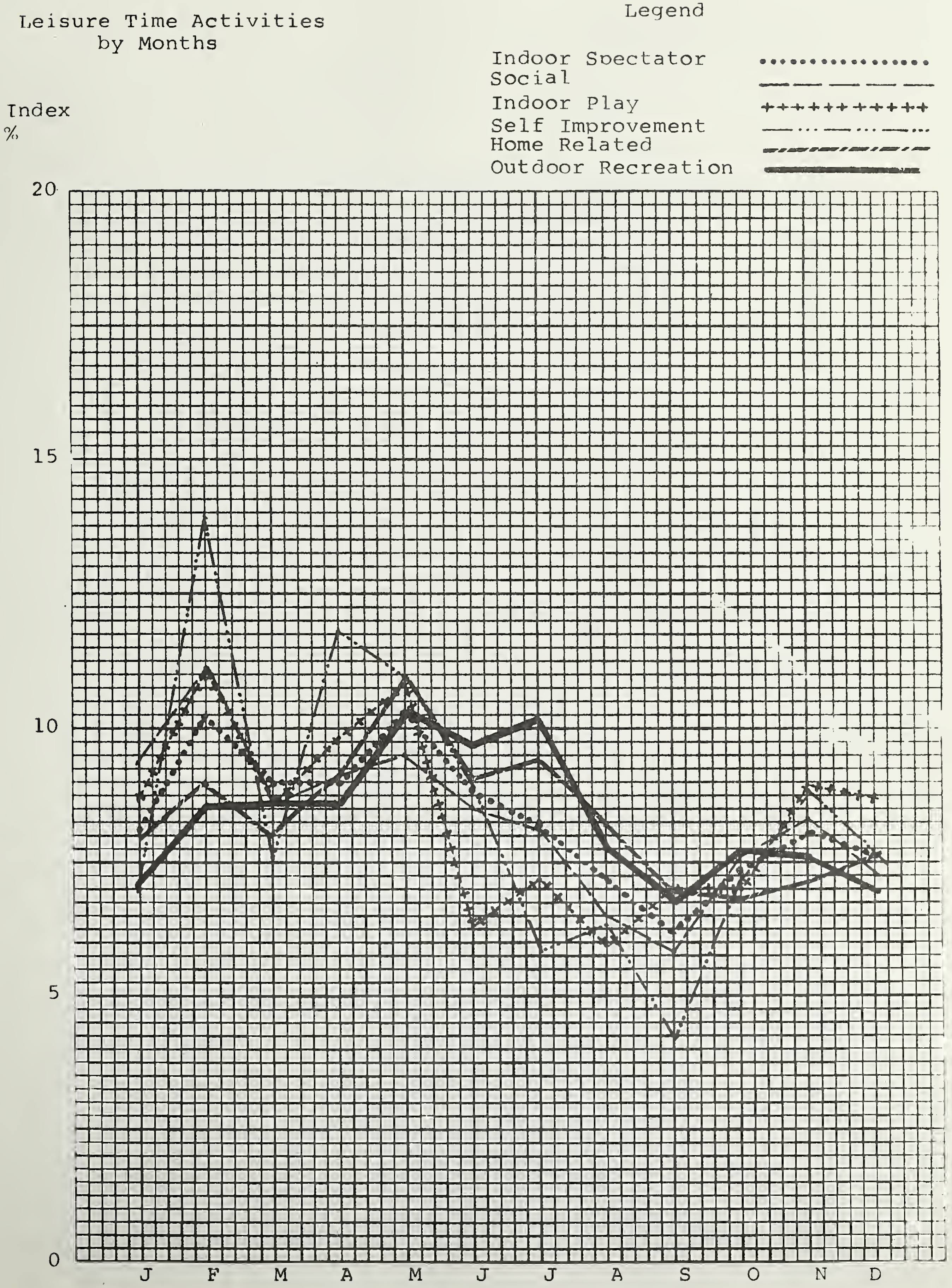
Each man equals 5 responses



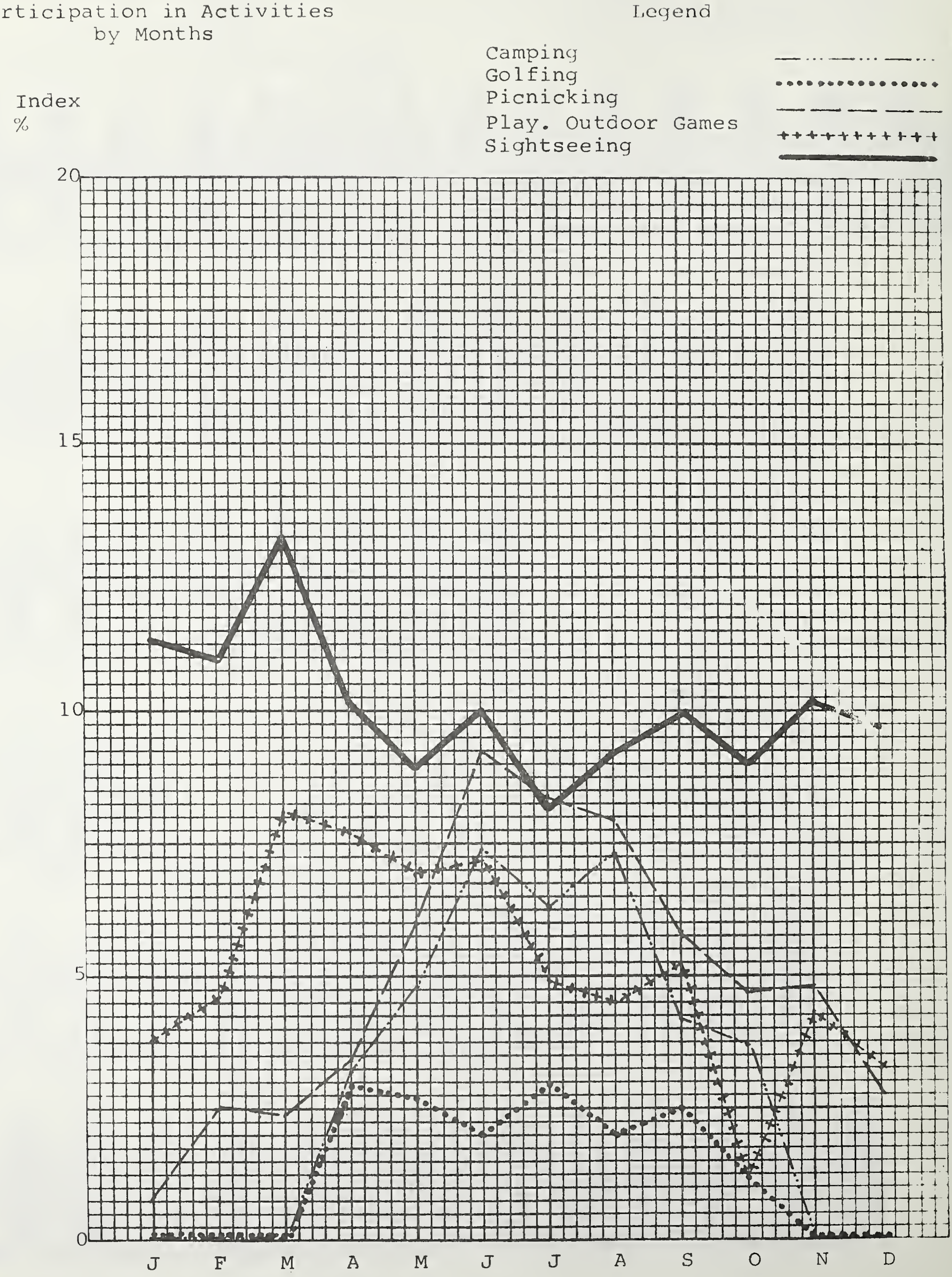
Above numbers indicate the average monthly responses from surveyed residents in the planning region.

PLANNING REGION 5

Leisure Time Activities by Months



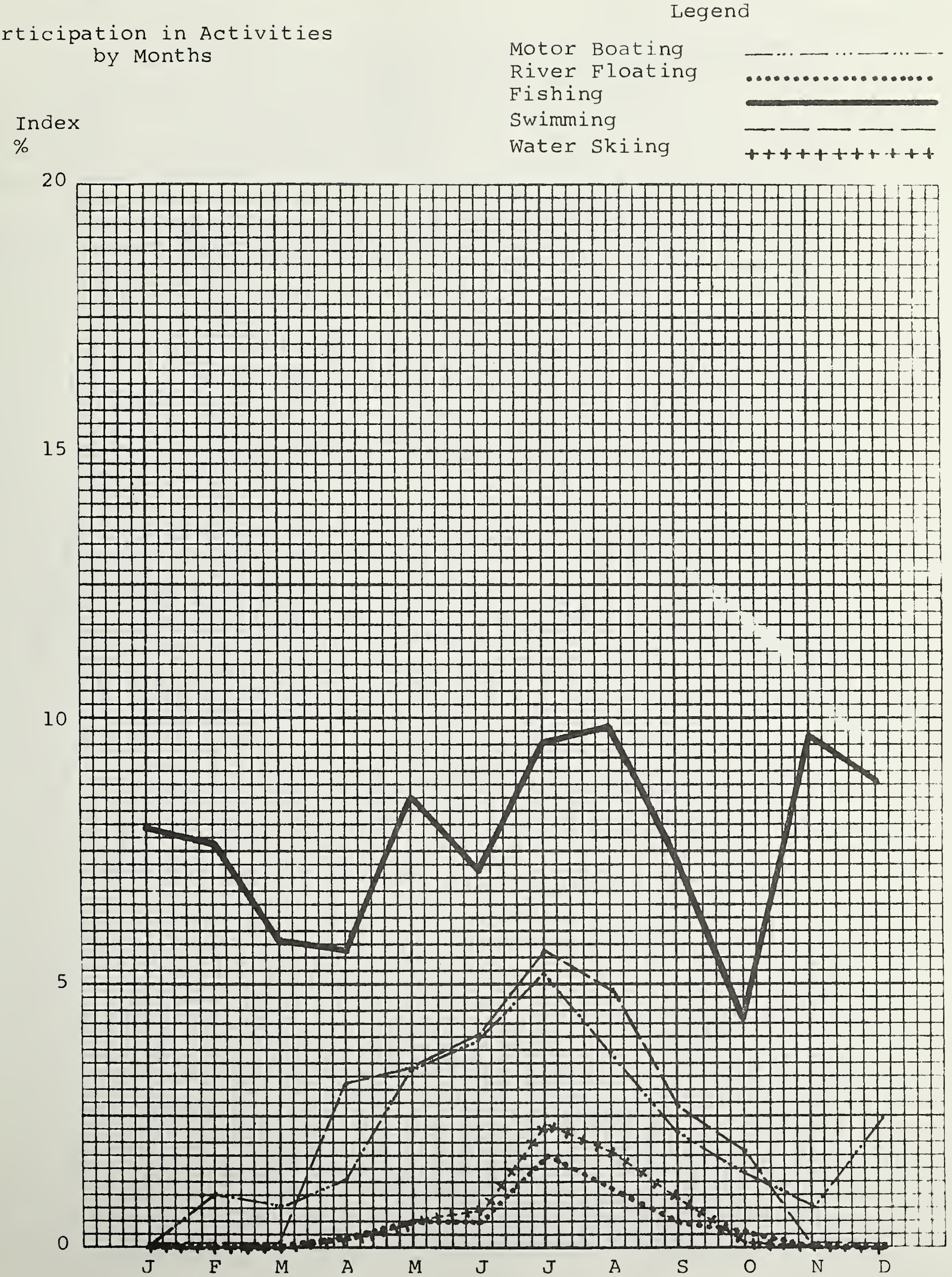
Participation in Activities by Months



Activities Concentrated in One Area

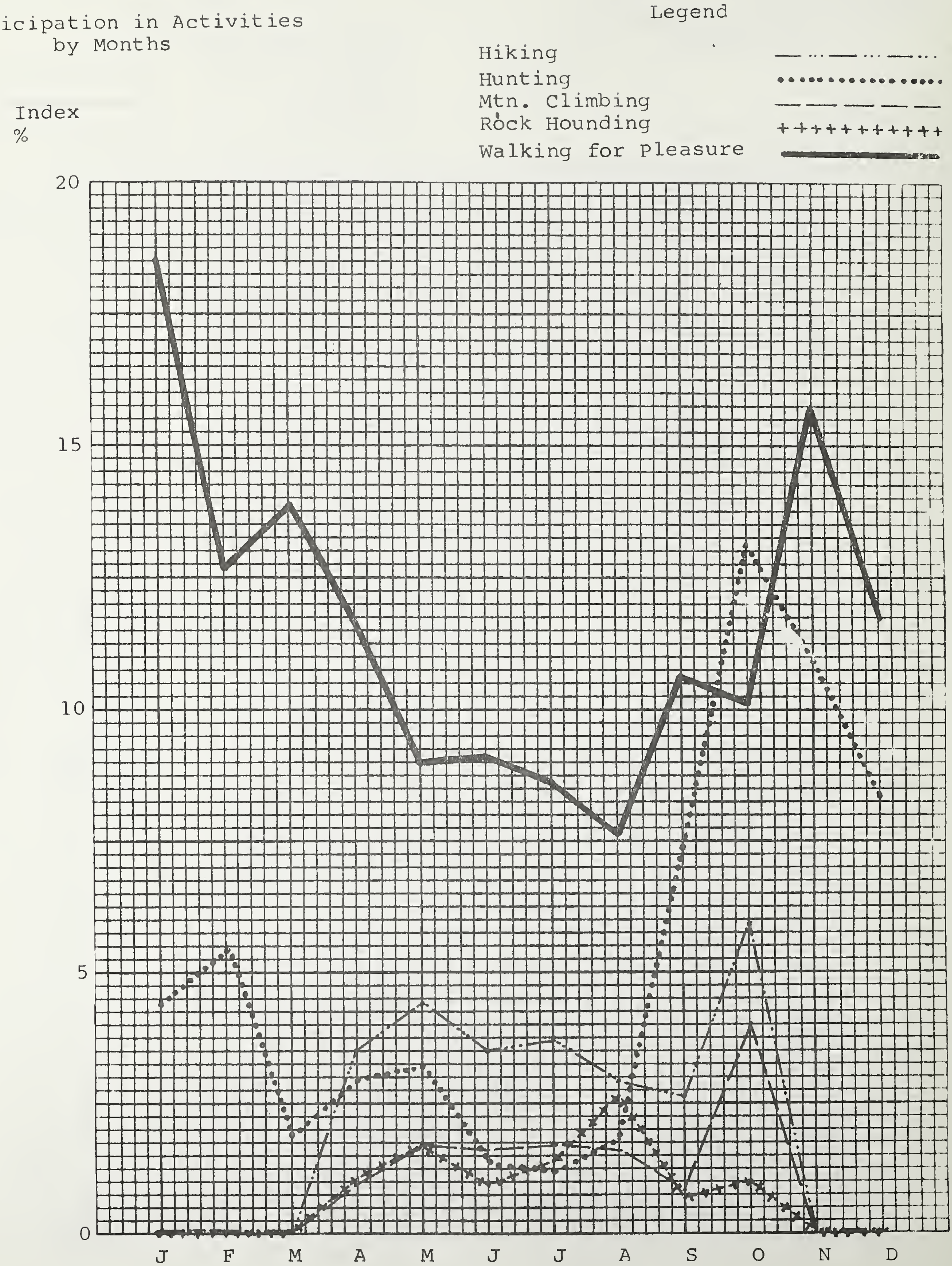
PLANNING REGION 5

Participation in Activities
by Months



Water Oriented Activities

articipation in Activities
by Months



Traveling Activities with/without Vehicle

The Great Falls Kiwanis Club donated funds for the development of Carter Park. More is planned during the fiscal year 1972-1973 such as the installation of a tennis court. Lions Club cooperating in the development of Lions Park such as the purchase of play equipment. In the past years the Lions Club has been instrumental in contributing about 50% on many large items. The Jaycee Club cooperated in the development of Gallatin (Jaycee Park). The Odd Fellows Lodge purchased a large Cedarwood Shelter for the Broadwater Bay area. The Miracle Mile Kiwanis Club purchased a shelter and other equipment for Russell Park.

A lack of funds has hampered the providing of outdoor recreation opportunity. Funds are needed from the state level for parks and recreation and should be legislated for. The funds available through the B.O.R. program should not be on a 50-50 basis. It would be more practicable if the recipient towns were to furnish 25% of the funds, ie. a 75-25 basis. Many cities cannot secure the necessary 50%.

The major problem for the Great Falls park and recreation system is the lack of funds.

Shelby states that providing recreation opportunity for the elderly is its number one priority. The hiring of a recreational director and initiation of a youth program have increased opportunity in Shelby. Assistance from the state is needed to develop parks. The major problem in Shelby, as in most communities, is the shortage of funds.

Conrad indicates that an additional swimming pool is its highest priority. The city favors passage of legislation which would provide for increased state funding, and feels that insufficient federal money is available for park and recreation development.

Belt considers a swimming pool, children's playground, and picnic area as highest priority recreation needs. The town is undertaking an excellent large scale outdoor recreation project. There is a need for state funding assistance, in the form of grants to small towns lacking funds. Officials feel the B.O.R. should consider funding of such items as indoor swimming pools because of Montana's climate. There has been a request to hire a summer recreation director. The major problem is a lack of finances to develop, operate and maintain recreation facilities; closing of the town pool is a possibility.

Choteau indicates their greatest need is facilities for indoor recreation. Outdoor recreation opportunity was increased when the Girl Scouts built a mini-park. The town wishes to build a new golf course with grass greens; they consider landscape work to be a current problem for their system.

Cut Bank's major priority is a new swimming pool, and their active park board is looking for federal and state financial assistance.

Fort Benton feels a swimming pool and general recreation facilities to be the highest priority. Tourism, especially that oriented to the Missouri River, has made its impact felt in Fort Benton, but there is an observable lack of recreation facilities in the immediate and surrounding areas. A lack of finances in the city, inhibits full scale development of the city's natural and historic potential. The city needs state and federal assistance; local taxes are not adequate for development and maintenance of parks. Fewer restrictions and "red tape" is suggested for the B.O.R. program; it over burdens small town governments. The matching ratio should be changed, as many small communities cannot raise 50% of project funds. Fort Benton tries to promote the Missouri River wilderness cruises as well as other recreation opportunities through brochures.

The major problem in recreation for Fort Benton is the lack of funds to construct and maintain recreation facilities. Much more could be done with outright grants.

Great Falls considers the provision of opportunities and facilities for the handicapped, jogging and bicycle trails to be its highest priority.

Some of the local innovations which have resulted in increased outdoor recreation opportunity in Great Falls, especially where local service clubs have cooperated with the park department, are given below.

The following table tabulates facilities available for recreation in the municipalities of Belt, Choteau, Cut Bank, Fort Benton, Great Falls, Shelby and Conrad.

MUNICIPAL FACILITIES

MUNICIPALITIES	1970 POPULATION	1972 PARK ACREAGE	Golf	Swimming Pool	Tennis	Multi-Purpose Courts	Baseball or Softball	Football	Children's Playgrounds	Large All Purpose Playfields	Picnic Areas	Designated Bike Trails	Indoor Recreation Centers	Facilities for the Handicapped	Special Accommodations for the Handicapped	
Belt	656	22														
	Facility Needs:			N	N	N	N		N	N	N		N1			
Choteau	1586	48	x	x	x		x		x	x	x					
	Facility Needs:											N	N2	N	N	
Cut Bank	4004	8		x												
	Facility Needs:			N												
Fort Benton	1863	20	x	x	x				x							
	Facility Needs:			N	N	N			N	N	N	N	N1			
Great Falls	60,091	957	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x		x			
	Facility Needs:		N		N		N		N			N	N	N	N	
Shelby	3,111	224	x	x	x		x	x	x		x		x			
	Facility Needs:															N3
Conrad	2,770	35	x	x	x		x	x	x		x					
	Facility Needs:			N		N				N						

1. Needs a community center and/or youth center. 2. Needs a gymnasium.
3. Needs recreation facilities for the elderly.

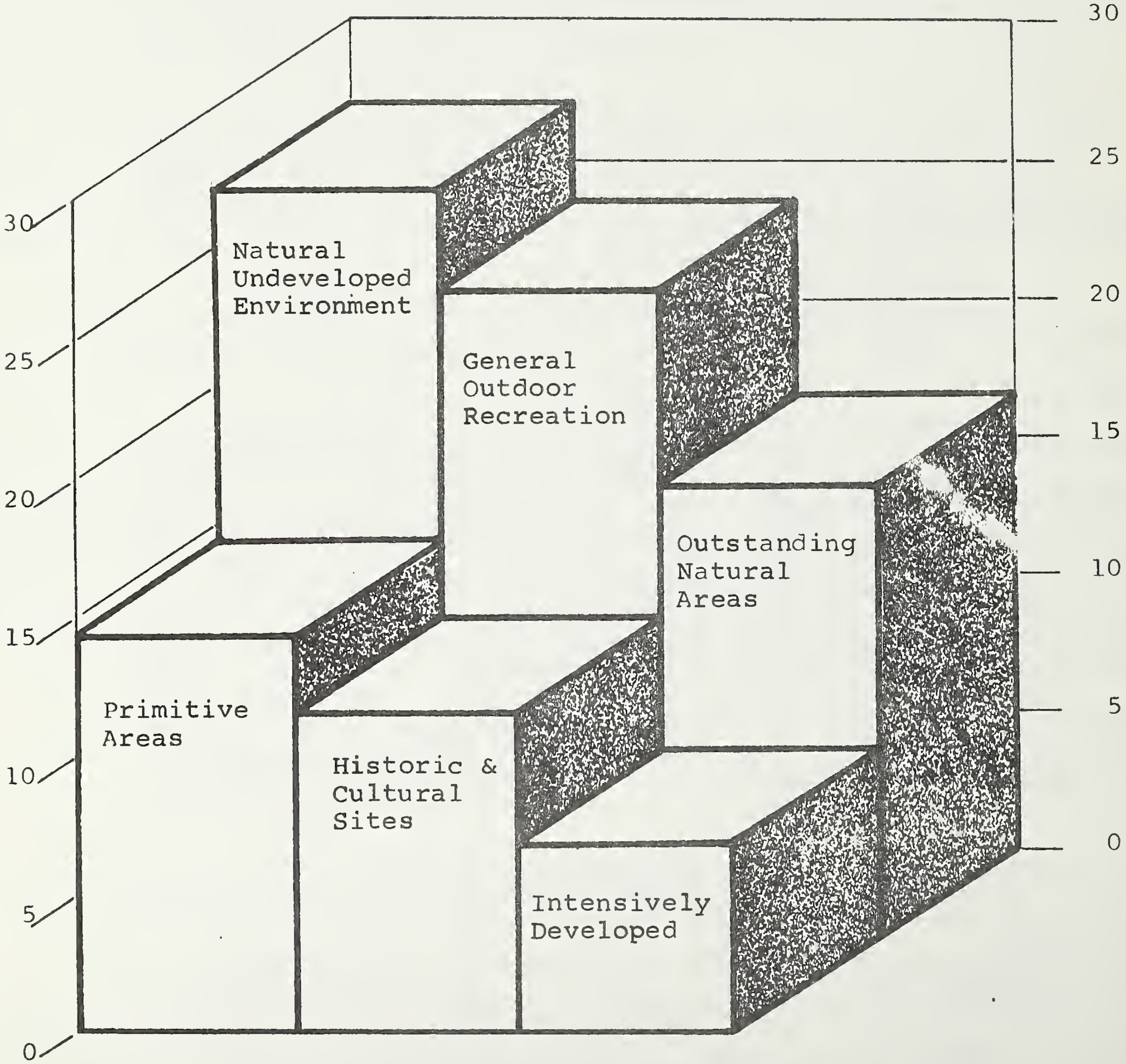
Recreation and parks expenditures, which include money for maintenance operation, personnel, acquisition, and development are tabulated below:

MUNICIPAL EXPENDITURES

	F. Y. 1970	F. Y. 1971	F. Y. 1972
Belt	$ 1,500	$ 1,500	$ 2,100
Choteau	7,954	7,089	6,904
Cut Bank	17,000	22,000	25,000
Fort Benton	12,000	14,000	21,500
Great Falls	580,271	533,207	569,283
Shelby	40,273	52,922	47,956
Conrad	24,000	18,200	18,500

PLANNING REGION 5

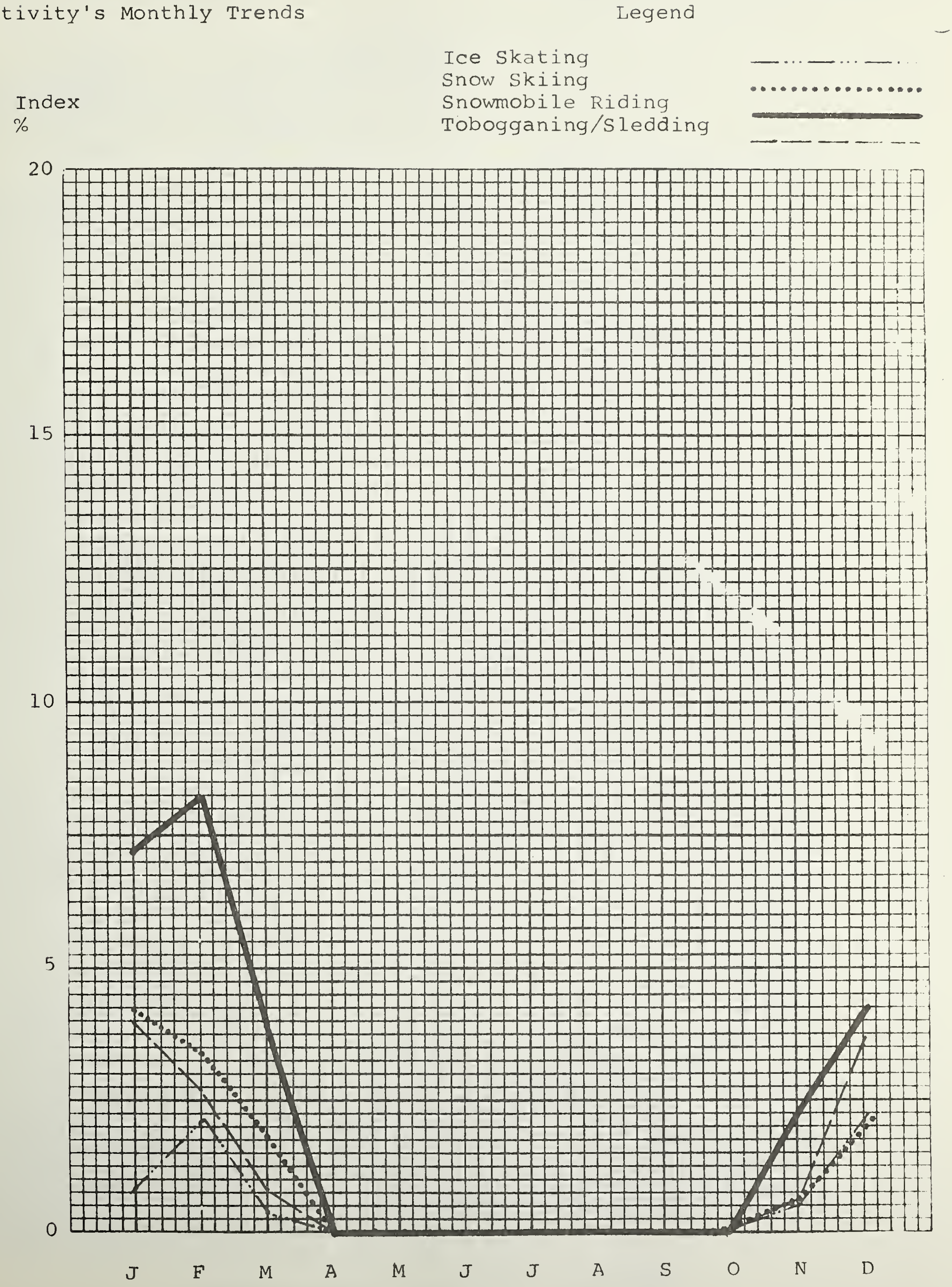
Preferences for Selected Types of Recreation Areas by Montana Residents
Yearly Totals



Numbers indicate a weighted percent based on the number of responses to first, second, and third preferences.

PLANNING REGION 5

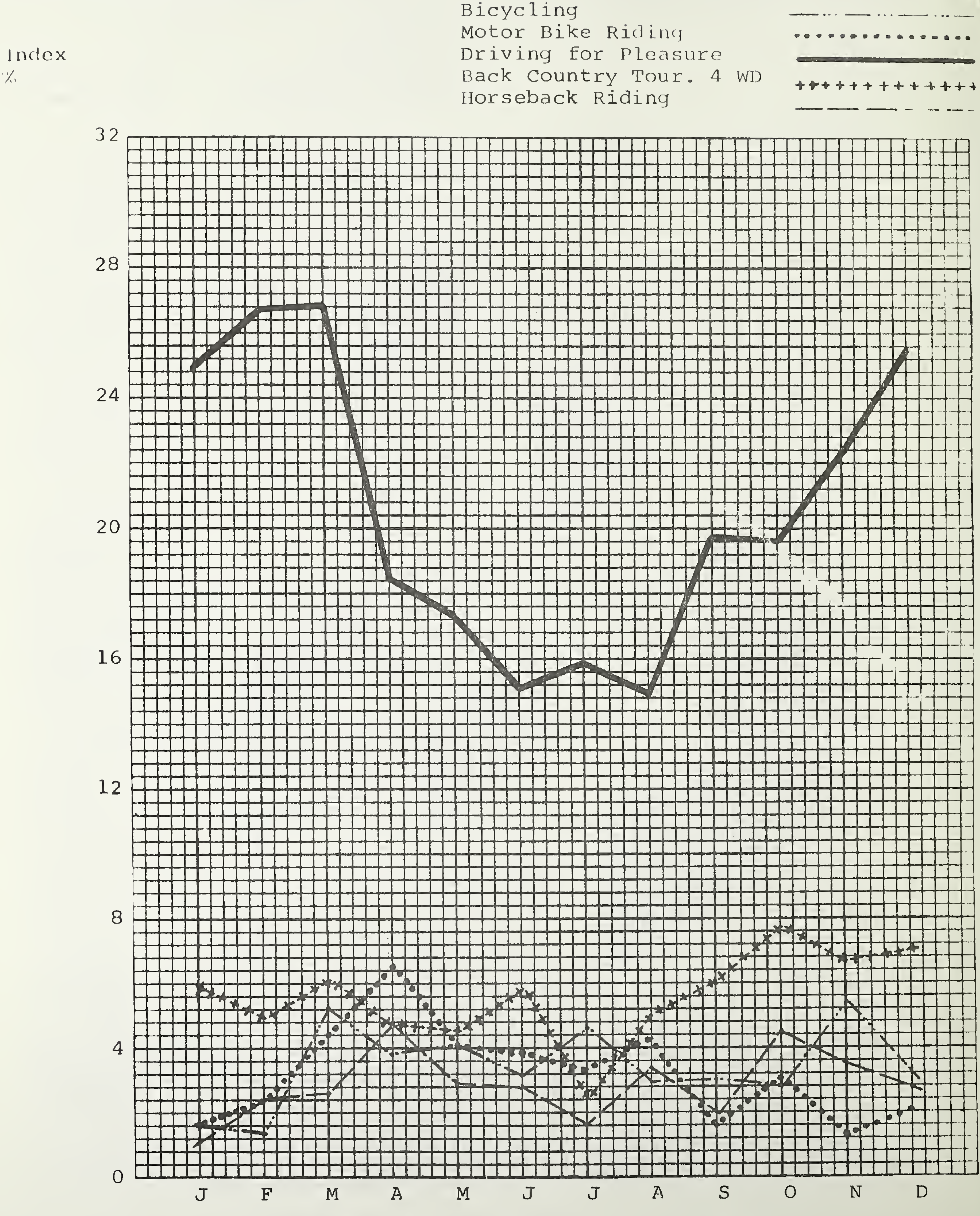
Activity's Monthly Trends



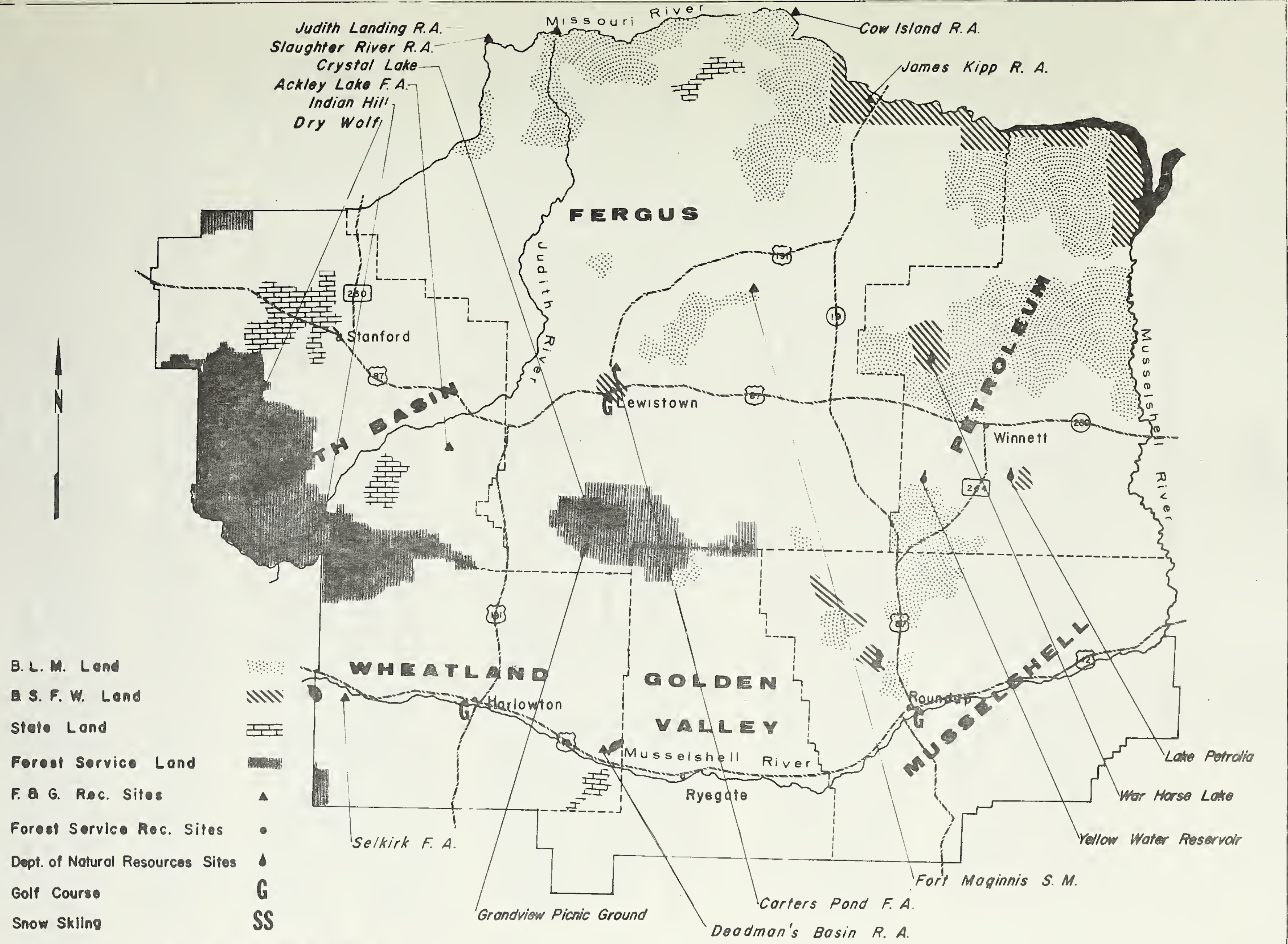
Winter Activities

PLANNING REGION 5

Participation in Activities
by Months



Traveling Activities - Vehicle Needed


Judith Landing R.A.
Slaughter River R.A.
Crystal Lake
Ackley Lake F.A.
Indian Hill
Dry Wolf
Missouri River
Cow Island R.A.
James Kipp R. A.
FERGUS
Judith River
PETROLEUM
Musselshell River
Stanford
Lewistown
Winnett
BASIN
WHEATLAND
GOLDEN VALLEY
MUSSELSHELL
Harlowton
Musselshell River
Ryegate
Roundup
280
87
191
19
244
12
Lake Petrolia
War Horse Lake
Yellow Water Reservoir
Fort Maginnis S. M.
Carters Pond F. A.
Deadman's Basin R. A.
Grandview Picnic Ground
Selkirk F. A.
N
B. L. M. Land
B. S. F. W. Land
State Land
Forest Service Land
F. & G. Rec. Sites
Forest Service Rec. Sites
Dept. of Natural Resources Sites
Golf Course G
Snow Skiing SS

PLANNING REGION 6

SUMMARY OF MAJOR RECREATION PROBLEMS

There are many attractive and desirable features of the region which provide for outdoor recreation in a variety of ways. The region is uncrowded and the major resources are dispersed in such a manner that a considerable portion of the population has relatively convenient access to one or more features over uncongested highways. The out-of-state visitor provides some economic benefit but does not at present unduly congest the favorite areas of the resident.

Despite these advantages, there are conditions which have limiting effects upon the opportunities. With some exceptions, there is a lack of developed general recreation areas, particularly near the communities which are population centers. This will be rectified somewhat in the Lewistown area as the recreation and flood control reservoirs are constructed on and in the vicinity of Big Spring Creek.

As in much of Montana, water is a limited resource and conflicts of interest between agriculture and the outdoor recreationist result in compromises not fully satisfactory to either group. Public access to trout streams is one of the major problems of the region. Developments along Big Spring Creek have the potential for pollution of the stream as well as for the limitation of habitat for wildlife and limitation of fishing access. Dewatering and siltation of trout streams result in damage to the fisheries and a lowered capacity over time. Concern is evidenced that the decline will continue rather than stabilize at a given point.

There are several large reservoirs which are used primarily for irrigation, resulting in serious fishery problems as they are drawn down each year. Presently their potential as a trout fishery is limited by the large populations of rough fish. Many small private ponds scattered through the region offer rather good fishing and more of these would be desirable. Public access to these would be appreciated by the recreationist and may provide some economic benefit to the owner as a corollary.

Additional recreational access on the Musselshell River would provide much desired opportunity on this small but productive stream.

The regional residents depend heavily upon the forests for recreation. Additional trails and various facilities which enhance the opportunities would be useful. Designation of areas suitable for dispersed recreation is needed to increase the opportunities in that category.

GEOGRAPHIC, POPULATION AND HISTORIC CHARACTERISTICS

This region, situated in the central portion of the state, assumes some of the characteristics of each of the regions adjoining, and together with its own unique resources, achieves an identity setting it apart from all the rest. On the north and northeast, the land merges with the lonely stretches of the Missouri River Breaks country and the isolation of the Charles Russell Game Range. The extensive grazing lands and prairies of east central Montana extend into that segment of the region, and on the south the agricultural bottomlands adjoining the Musselshell are a smaller version of the Yellowstone Valley drainage just beyond. On the west, the wooded mountains of the Lewis and Clark Forest are dominant and it is here that the region, a part of what is called the Rocky Mountain Front, makes contact with that famous range, specifically a portion of the Little Belt Mountains. In the northwest sector the region's grainfields, considered the very best in the state, extend to meet the larger grain growing areas in Region 5. In the center of the region, are found the Big Snowies and the Little Snowies, as well as the Judiths, all unique to the region. These mountains rise abruptly from the plains, adding to their impact and to the character of the region.

The region is thus something of a cross section of the state, evidenced among other ways in the wildlife to be found here. The region is noted for the diversity of wildlife and residents maintain, with a sound basis, that specimens of nearly all the native wildlife, game, fish, and fowl were the early inhabitants of the region.

From a geologic basis, the area did not undergo the impact of glaciation and its mountainous areas are less rugged and precipitous than some areas to the west. The Little Belt Mountains and the Big Snowy Mountains were caused by vertical up-lifting while the Judith Mountains were the result of a granitic igneous intrusion.

Lower elevation vegetation in this region consists primarily of undifferentiated grasslands with wheat grass, grama grass, bunch grass and blue grass predominating. As one moves toward the Missouri River, the Judith or Big Snowy Mountains, open woodland Ponderosa pine forest is encountered and becomes quite extensive in these areas. On reaching the higher elevations of the Little Belts and the Big Snowies, Montana forest, which includes Douglas fir, spruce and alpine fir, predominates until the noncommercial trees of the alpine and meadow areas are reached. Some deciduous cottonwoods and willows grow along the river valleys.

Water resources are limited in Region 6 with the Missouri River bordering on the north and the Judith River entering from the south into the Missouri. The Musselshell River borders on the east and cuts across the southern part of the region.

Climatic conditions in Region 6 are similar to other central and eastern regions with greater extremes of temperature in winter and summer, and a spring and early summer maximum rainfall period. The influence of the mountains has some effect on the climate, and naturally the climate there is considerably cooler and moister through the year with heavier snowfalls in the mountains.

The regional population, according to the 1970 official census, is 23,147 persons with county totals as indicated below:

REGION 6 POPULATION DISTRIBUTION

County	Persons
Fergus	12,611
Golden Valley	931
Judith Basin	2,667
Musselshell	3,734
Petroleum	675
Wheatland	2,529
Region Total	23,147

The population is widely dispersed in Region 6 except for concentrations in the areas of Lewistown (population 6,437), Roundup (population 2116) and Harlowton (population 1375). Within the region, only 27.8% or 6,437 persons live in urban areas, indicating the need for a rural concept approach in many aspects of society. This region is probably the most rural oriented area in the state. The minority population in Region 6 is insignificant. Like most other eastern Montana regions, this region has lost population since 1960. Petroleum County has lost 25%, Musselshell 24%, Golden Valley 23%, Wheatland 16%, Judith Basin 14% and Fergus 10%.

Rail service, a primary airport at Lewistown, and primary U. S. Highways 87, passing east and west through Lewistown, and 12, passing east and west through Roundup and Harlowton are the major transportation facilities which serve Region 6.

With ranching and farming playing a predominant role in the economy, it follows that there is a high rural population. The forest industry is sizeable with utilization of national forest timber providing a considerable quantity of raw material. Lewistown is a wholesale-retail trade center for the area.

Public land in Region 6 accounts for a considerable amount of the total land area and is indicated in the following table:

PUBLIC LAND IN REGION 6*

County	Percentage	Square Miles
Fergus	23.0	975
Golden Valley	10.6	126
Judith Basin	34.3	647
Musselshell	16.1	304
Petroleum	40.2	672
Wheatland	15.9	227
	24.1	2,951

*Does not include local government land

This public land is administered with major public land holdings as follows:

PUBLIC LAND ADMINISTRATION -- REGION 6

Agency		Land (acres)
Federal		
Bureau of Land Management		820,131
U. S. Forest Service		475,265
U. S. Army		32,885
Bureau of Sport Fisheries & Wildlife		20,625
U. S. Air Force		11,362
	TOTAL	1,360,268
State		
Department of State Lands (not including state forest)		496,570
Office of the State Forester		17,864
Montana Fish and Game Department		10,901
	TOTAL	525,335
Local		
Community Parks		80

Regional Points of Interest

C. M. Russell National Wildlife Refuge
(See Region 1)

James Kipp State Recreation Area

This recreation site is located where U. S. Highway 19 crosses the Missouri River, in a more remote part of the state.

Missouri River

Much of the river is still in its natural state west of James Kipp State Recreation Area and is accessible only only by boat.

Musselshell River

Big Spring Creek

Historic Sites

Most of the historic sites in this region are located in Fergus County and center on the early commerce of Montana.

Below is a summary chart listing the major historic sites in Region 6.

HISTORIC SITES IN REGION 6

Historic Site	County	Significant Dates	Significance
Camp Cooke	Fergus	1866	Military
Carroll	Fergus	1868	Commerce
Carroll-Helena Trail	Fergus, et.al.	1870's	Commerce
Claggett Post Office & Store	Fergus	1872	Commerce
C. M. Russell National Wildlife Range	Fergus, et.al.	1934	Conservation
Davis-Hauser-Stuart Ranch	Fergus	1880's	Agriculture
Fort Claggett	Fergus	1870	Commerce
Fort Maginnis	Fergus	1880	Military
Garneill	Fergus	1930's	Social
Judith Mtns. Hist. Dist.	Fergus	1880's	Industry
N-Bar Ranch	Fergus	1880's	Agriculture
Reed's Fort & Post Off.	Fergus	1874	Commerce
Fish & Wildlife Service (Balen) Cabin	Fergus	1879	Transportation
Rocky Pt. Trader's Cabin	Fergus	1880's	Commerce
Yogo	Judith Basin	1879	Industry
Kerchinal-Musselshell City	Petroleum	1866	Commerce

CHARACTERISTICS OF RECREATION USE

Leisure Time in Region 6

In Region 6, more residents engage in indoor spectator activities than in any other leisure time activities, but only to a slightly higher degree than both outdoor recreation activities, which were second most popular, and home-related activities which were third. Relative to other regions, outdoor recreation was participated in to a slightly lesser degree. It appears that over the 12-month period the greatest amount of leisure time available was indicated for July and April, whereas the least amount was available in September. The most time spent in outdoor recreation was in July, least in March.

All the leisure time activities generally moved consistently together throughout the year peaking and falling most as a group. Self-improvement activities including school work, health and fitness programs seem to have the greatest variation, varying from a low in May to a high in December.

(For a more complete graphic account see Appendix.)

The Characteristics and Viewpoints of the Park User in Region 6

The greatest number of users of facilities in Region 6 were Montana residents; they accounted for 79.3% of all use in the region. 20.7% were nonresidents. The greatest number of residents recreating in Region 6 came from out of the region: Yellowstone County to the south accounted for 18.3% of the users, other counties to the south and west accounted for 17.1%, Fergus County within the region accounted for only 15.9%, and one other county to the northwest, Cascade County, accounted for 11% showing a high degree of influx from out of the region. In the future, it is expected that use from persons residing outside Region 6 will increase. The most frequently encountered number of persons in a recreating group or party was two.

Recreation sites in Region 6 received a fairly high percentage of day use visits, these being twice as much as any overnight stays or more lengthy visits. The reason given most frequently for choosing a recreation area in Region 6 was because it was an area where they could participate in a desired activity. The second most prevalent reason a recreation area was chosen was because it was convenient to the highway. This region was the only one in the state in which convenience to the highway was given as a major reason for choosing a recreation area. Facility conditions were generally below the state average, but environmental factors were generally on a par with state averages except for sufficient space. The amount of space available in recreation areas in Region 6 ranked above the state average indicating an ample amount of space for recreation users in this region. 31.7% of all recreationists surveyed indicated a need for additional activities or facilities at selected areas in Region 6.

Resting and relaxing, camping, picnicking, fishing and walking for pleasure were the five most popular activities which the park user engaged in, in Region 6. Given preferences, resting and relaxing was still the number one activity, with fishing the second most preferred, and boating included in the top five.

Implications

1. Both the resident and nonresident (the latter being one out of five recreationists) were looking for a recreation area which was convenient to the highway as well as providing facilities for certain activities. Natural beauty was not an important factor in choice of a recreation area in Region 6.

2. Day use, because of its high incidence would indicate a need for amply day use facilities in particular to accommodate many of the recreationists from out of Region 6, but within the state.

3. Since nearly 1/3 of the respondents indicated a need for additional recreation facilities or activities at selected areas in the region, due consideration of this request is in order.

4. The high incidence of resting and relaxing indicates the need for special planning to accommodate passive recreation. This concept might include walkways, rest areas, shelters, and interesting surroundings. It should be an important factor at all recreation areas.

5. An indication of the popularity of water-oriented activities is given by the fact that motor boating and fishing both rated higher in preference than the actual participation. Recreationists obviously would do more of these water-oriented activities if more facilities were available or if there were more recreation areas located on water bodies.

6. The data indicates that a relatively high amount of day use visits by Montana residents from out of Region 6 occur, and these users seek specific recreation activities to engage in.

The Montana Resident

Characteristics of the resident respondents can be found in the Appendix. These data include the respondents marital status, sex, age, household status, employment, vacation allowance, available time and general health.

Tables following, indicate the frequency of participation in various activities by those surveyed and is a measure of their popularity in Region 6.

Little correlation exists between recreation activities engaged in and those indicated as most preferred. Although driving for pleasure ranked first, both in participation and preference, other activities were not in comparable position as far as participation and preference is concerned. Walking for pleasure and sightseeing rated second and third in the activities actually participated in, but such activities as fishing, hunting and horseback riding rated much higher in preference than they were actually engaged in.

Fishing was the most popular water-oriented activity reaching a peak in the spring and falling off in the fall and winter. Its popularity was exceeded only in the late summer by swimming. Snowmobiling was by far the most popular winter activity and was exceeded only in March by snowskiing by residents of Region 6. Sightseeing, the most popular of activities generally concentrated in one area was exceeded only once and that in June by outdoor games activities. Walking for pleasure, by far the most popular activity in its category, dropped off to some extent in the late summer. It was exceeded only once and that by hunting in the fall. Driving for pleasure, by far the most popular activity where a vehicle is needed, peaked at various times through the year and generally was at its low point in late summer. (For a detailed graphic account see Appendix.)

Residents by far preferred natural environment areas with a minimum of development. Residents of the region preferred natural undeveloped areas to a higher degree than residents of any other region. General outdoor recreation areas were preferred to a much lesser degree. These are sites such as state parks and forest campgrounds with camping, picnicking or boating facilities. The third most preferred type of area was the primitive, as for example, the Gates of the Mountains Wilderness Area or the Spanish Peaks Primitive Area. (See Appendix for further details.)

Implications

1. Driving for pleasure is obviously important in Region 6 as it is in most other regions in the state. Sightseeing is also very important. This fact would imply that facilities and recreation type roads should be made available in conjunction with existing roads for residents of Region 6, so that driving for pleasure and sightseeing might be enhanced. Loop roads, points of interest and rest stops are some of the major concepts which should be incorporated in making pleasure driving a more desirable activity. It would also be desirous to encourage more bicycling activity by providing attractive, convenient trails.

2. Walking for pleasure is also very important in this region. Facilities such as walkways and rest stops should be provided at points of interest and in urban areas.

3. Fishing and swimming are both indicated to be very popular activities with residents of this region and more facilities should be provided to accommodate these activities.

4. Residents of Region 6 engage in considerable snowmobiling, and snowskiing to some extent, and added facilities to accommodate such activities should be provided particularly at points of interest, natural areas, and in the mountains.

5. Natural undeveloped environment areas are vastly preferred by residents of Region 6, and access to acquisition of these types of areas should be a prime consideration. Closely related to these are primitive areas, which are also a high preference for residents of this region. Some consideration should be given to the feasibility of providing a primitive or roadless area in the Little Belt Mountains or perhaps the Big Snowies.

Problems and Potentials in Recreation for Region 6

In Region 6, driving for pleasure has some potential in certain areas. These areas would include the Big Snowies, the Little Belt Mountains, the Judith Mountains, and the Russell Wildlife Range. Within all of these there is a certain amount of natural and scenic area which greatly enhances driving. The Russell Wildlife Range area includes much private land. There is a lack of access and in some cases a lack of any roads. Some roads are not all weather roads. Parts of the Russell Wildlife Range area need additional interpretation in order that more people can become aware of the opportunities. Incorporated in all driving for pleasure circuits, should be a degree of interpretive exhibits, rest areas and possibly a loop concept which would bring the driver back to the original starting point. A considerable number of historic sites exist in Fergus County and could be made part of the driving for pleasure circuit.

Walking for pleasure, popular in Region 6, should be noted, especially within the towns and urban areas. Occasional walking trails might be provided in the more interesting natural areas in the Big Snowies or the Little Belt Mountains.

Back-country touring can be rewarding in this region. Off road travel will undoubtedly come under greater control than in the past because of the detrimental effect of such travel on the terrain. Presently there appears to be ample public land available for back-country touring with 4-wheel drive or other vehicles, provided they are controlled to an extent which would minimize damage.

A major recreation activity in the region is fishing, but there is the problem of insufficient access and the rising cost of land to obtain that access. Potential is good for this activity in Region 6.

Hunting is also a popular recreation activity in this region but similar problems as in the rest of the state confront the hunter. Access to public land and abuse of private land are the more significant problems. The region is noted for its diversity of hunting opportunity, providing a good cross-section of all other opportunity throughout the state.

There are many and attractive areas for picnicking in Region 6, and it is a relatively popular activity. Desirable sites would be located at or near rivers or lakes, but these areas are somewhat limited in the region. The scenic areas and the distances involved in covering them should generate considerable interest in the use of horses on many of the trails.

The potential for camping is relatively high especially in some of the more mountainous and forested areas such as the Big Snowy Mountains and the Little Belt Mountains. Some camping areas exist presently and the potential is there for more camping along the Missouri River bordering the north part of the region. Many of the designated, developed camping areas in Region 6 are not high use areas at the present and a considerable portion of the camping is transient camping by those who are passing through the area.

Swimming in this region is limited by the distribution of major water resources, but the interest is considerable, and pool swimming assumes greater importance. Future consideration should be given to further development to enhance the areas already present, and to perhaps think in terms of further acquisition of land bordering water bodies. Most bicycling in Region 6 will in the future probably be done close to or within towns and other urban areas. Opportunities for hiking are found primarily on public land, either U. S. Forest Service land or Bureau of Land Management or Sport Fisheries and Wildlife land near the Fort Peck Reservoir. Hiking trails are generally utilized most heavily when they are located near natural attractions.

For water sports in general, the highest potential probably lies in Petroleum County because of its bordering Fort Peck Reservoir, a major recreation resource.

Regarding winter sports, Judith Basin and Fergus County seem to offer the greatest potential. Because of the prominent mountains, the Little Belts and the Big Snowies, facilities for various winter sports might be located in these areas. At present, there are already snowskiing facilities located at Castle Hill (4,200') in the Big Snowy Mountains south of Lewistown. These areas have the potential for snowmobile trails and cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, and downhill skiing.

Inventory of Facilities

Federal and State Recreation Facilities

In Region 6, the Montana Fish and Game Department and the U.S. Forest Service are the major public agencies which presently provide recreation facilities and land for public recreation use. The Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife also has a sizeable amount of land available for present and future use. Major areas with selected facilities are summarized below:

FEDERAL AND STATE RECREATION AREAS - REGION 6

Federal	Picnic Units	Camping Units	Swimming	Fishing	Boat Ramp
U. S. Forest Service (as of March 1, 1974)					
Lewis and Clark N.F.					
Crystal Lake	1	19	0	X	X
Dry Wolf	1	26	0	X	0
Grand-View Picnic Ground	15	0	0	X	0
Indian Hill	0	7	0	X	0
Total	17	52	0	4	1
State					
Montana Department of Fish and Game					
Ackley Lake Fishing Access Site	0	0	0	X	0
Carter's Pond Fishing Access Site	7	0	0	X	0
Deadman's Basin Recreation Area	16	20	X	X	X
Fort Maginnis State Monument	0	0	0	0	0
James Kipp Rec. Area	23	15	0	X	X
Selkirk Fishing Access Site	4	4	0	X	0
Total	50	39	1	5	2
Total Selected Facilities, Region 6	67	91	1	9	3

MAJOR RECREATION RESOURCES

Big Snowy Mountains

The Snowy Mountains offer a potential for considerable additional recreation use, although of a somewhat specialized nature. Current use of the area centers around Crystal Lake and the Forest Service Campground situated adjacent to it. Present use is influenced by the very limited water resources which consist primarily of the lake and several small intermittent streams.

The Crystal Lake Campground will undergo redevelopment in the relatively near future, with only minor additions to the number of camping facilities. Redevelopment will include improvement of the road to the area, and the removal of most of the camp sites from the shoreline. This will alleviate the problems of sanitation which have arisen and further, will provide for greater access to the water by the day user and other forest visitors as well. The development will be undertaken under the recently prepared multi-use plan for the forest and will include the vicinity of the Rock Creek drainage as well. A future addition to the recreation facilities will be a number of trails, with some zoned for hiking and some designated for motor bikes and like vehicles. Trails will bring the visitor to the interesting limestone formations and ice caves which are found in the forest. Trails will be limited, however, and will be carefully designed in accord with the capability of the land and the vegetative cover to withstand the usage.

There are a number of roadless areas in the Lewis and Clark Forest on these mountains and these offer a potential for wilderness experience. Future developments will be held in abeyance until the present studies have determined the status of these sub-regions.

The mountain regions other than the Crystal Lake area are very limited in water resources and this will influence the nature of use of the area. Despite the lack of water, the relatively harsh nature of the terrain and the limited vegetation in areas, the mountains have a potential for recreation for at least the more vigorous of the forest users. The peaks and slopes offer unusually fine scenic views in every direction. The dramatic contrasts with the surrounding prairies and farm lands are intriguing and the vast sight distances are unique to the region and to much of the state as well. The forbidding terrain is a challenge to the hiker and for many, the use of horses will be a necessity. The complete absence of water in much of the region will mean carefully planned hiking routes and excursions.

The potential for horseback riding is very high and the opportunity for adjoining ranches and farms to supply the animals and services merit consideration. A riding trail extending the length of the high ridge should be carefully studied. Limited camping could be accommodated and this would consist essentially of the more primitive type of facility.

The area has been carefully studied for its potential for a ski area and has been found to be lacking in the necessary natural conditions for a desirable site. While the search will continue for a good site, much of the area has been eliminated. Limiting factors include the wind pattern and lack of snow on the slopes, lack of suitable terrain and land formations. The north slopes are especially limited in this respect.

Fishing is extremely limited in the mountainous areas and hunting on the upper slopes is likewise not of great potential. Hunting on the foothill areas and private lands adjoining the mountain range is excellent, however, and in combination with the other attractions, should combine to make for a high recreation potential. There are several very scenic canyons in the Snowies, notably the Horsethief and Cottonwood Canyons. These offer some desirable opportunity for undeveloped area type camping, despite the limited vegetation for shade and screening.

LEWIS AND CLARK FOREST

Little Belt Mountains

The forested areas of the Little Belts offer a very attractive recreation resource somwhat different in nature from the Snowy Mountains. The Little Belts region has considerably more water resources and consequently the fishing is excellent in this forest unit. Numerous streams and productive fisheries provide a decided inducement for the area.

The wooded slopes and the canyons offer a cool retreat from the weather conditions of summer and the accessibility in general is much greater than the Snowies. Highway 89 offers access to numerous trail roads which in turn take the visitor to a number of desirable sites, including some rather remote in nature.

The region is generally attractive and withstands considerable recreation use at this time. The forest provides hunting, fishing, camping and numerous opportunities for hiking. Hunting opportunities are enhanced by the presence of winter game ranges. The terrain and vegetation favor the hiker enough that this activity can be undertaken with relative ease in many situations. The hiker will find numerous old mines as well as the opportunity to view some present mining activity. Hiking to the numerous fishing streams is a popular diversion at present.

Present plans for development consist primarily of enhancement of present facilities, with a careful expansion of present sites to accommodate the demand. New sites will not be developed in the foreseeable future, although trails and interpretive work are planned for. Funds are not available at present, however.

MISSOURI RIVER

The region is bordered on the north by a unique and historic section of the Missouri River. This magnificent river and the lands adjoining it are essentially unchanged by civilization and thus retain the character and appearance it possessed when the earliest settlers and explorers, including Lewis and Clark, first entered the country. The rugged and inhospitable looking terrain is unusually picturesque and is unique in the entire length of the Missouri River. Limestone formations and the terrain of the breaks as they are locally known give the area a wilderness atmosphere, and together with the remoteness contributes substantially to the recreational attraction.

The river is popular today for floating and associated sightseeing, with several access points for the boaters. Although the only site on the south bank of the river is Hole-in-the-Wall the other points, Cow Island, Judith Landing, and Slaughter River are accessible to the region residents.

The portion of the Missouri River from Fort Benton to Ryan Island is currently being studied on an interagency basis for designation as a wild and scenic river under the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. The study team includes federal and state agencies and a proposal is being prepared for consideration by Congress. At this time the boundaries of the area to be designated have not been finalized and will undergo further review and presented at public hearings.

The study recommends that primary recreational use consist of the river floating with attendant camping and sightseeing. Such float trips would provide access to scenery and a wilderness experience unique in this type of activity. Upon designation as a resource with national status, it is anticipated that administrative sites would be added to the area, and that the history and natural science of the river would receive appropriate emphasis through programs of interpretation. Because of the nature of the resource, the recreational use will be carefully regulated to enhance the experience and to preserve the source of the opportunity itself.

Judith River

The headwaters of the Judith may have a moderate amount of recreation potential for fishing and related camping, primarily of a dispersed type with little or no development. The main portion of the river is used for irrigation, leaving minor stream flows. The mouth of the Judith is of some historic note and this should be brought to the attention of the visitors to the area.

Judith Mountains

These mountains have interesting old mining areas for the exploration by recreationists with an inclination for history of early Montana. Other recreational uses would be rather limited. There are no water-oriented attractions on the Judiths.

Musselshell River

The river is a highly desirable recreation resource, providing opportunities for hunting waterfowl and other game and for fishing plus associated camping. More than 40 miles of the river are found in the region and additional access is needed to supplement the present Selkirk Fishing Access Site supplied by the Department of Fish and Game. The Selkirk site, located 13 miles west of Harlowton, provides basic facilities for camping plus some picnicking. Only minor additions to this unit would be feasible.

James Kipp Recreation Area

This site provides a pleasant camping and boat access area in the cottonwood bottoms adjoining the Missouri River. The site is developed nearly to capacity and no further additions are contemplated here. Situated on the river and near the Fred Robinson Bridge, the site readily serves residents on both sides of the river, and the traveler as well. The site is an important terminus for floaters originating their journey at Fort Benton. The park serves hunters in the autumn and is a popular rendevous.

Deadman's Basin

The reservoir provides the major water oriented recreation resource for the southern portion of this region. The fishing is good and there is extensive opportunity for boating. A high drawdown does influence recreational use, however, and creates special problems in design of boating facilities. High northerly winter winds are of significance in design as well.

Present facilities are provided by the Department of Fish and Game and consist of camping, picnicking and boating accommodations. A picnic shelter is provided for groups and for use during the occasionally inclement weather.

The reservoir is adequate in size to accommodate the foreseeable increase in use from the region. Increased visitation is anticipated from the general Billings vicinity and some added camping and picnicking can be provided. Additional land for public use is needed on the north shore, however, if use becomes appreciably greater than at present. The fishery is generally a productive one and can be maintained by the Fish and Game Department. Waterfowl hunting is a recreational attraction in season and this can be maintained.

Future development at the reservoir is expected to be of essentially the same nature as at present. Some enhancement of present facilities will occur as funds become available.

The potential for a private enterprise concession is at best very modest at this time for this recreation area.

Charles M. Russell Game Range

Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife

While Region 6 is noted for its diversity of hunting and for the quality as well, the game range offers special attractions. The concentration of a wide variety of game, upland birds and waterfowl, and the remoteness and undeveloped character of the range are inducement for visitation. Recreationists especially interested in wildlife viewing and in photography will find the area a highly desirable one. Hunting in season adds to the already favorable situation for this activity in this region.

Development at the range will necessarily be very limited, and secondary in purpose to the overall objectives of game management. There will be limited opportunity for picnicking and camping is permitted in certain undeveloped areas with a stay of up to two weeks available. Several blinds suitable for photography and viewing will be constructed and a widely expanded program of interpretation will make this area an outstanding attraction in this regard. Funds are extremely limited at this time however.

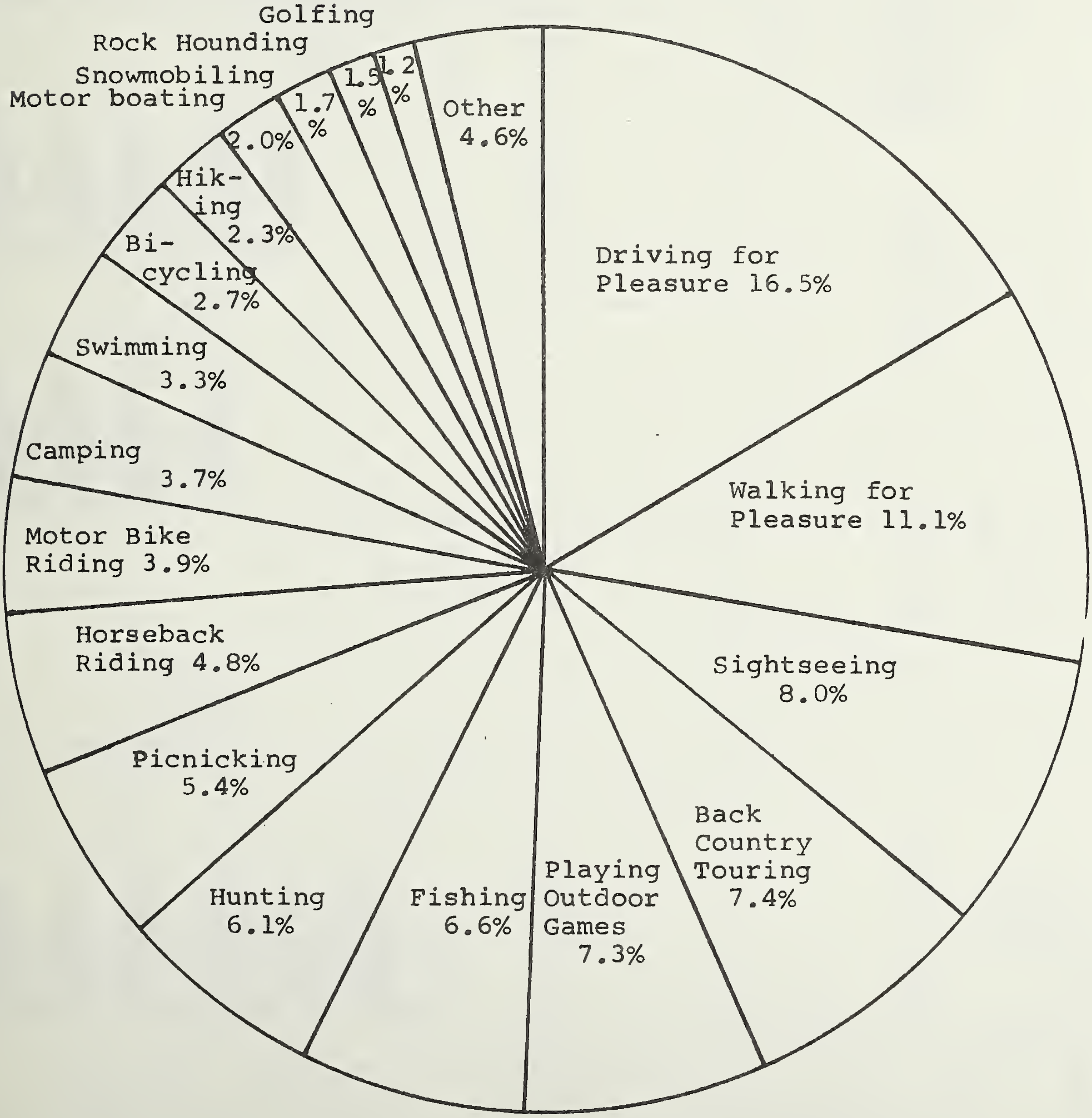
Lake Mason Wildlife Refuge

Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife

The refuge is an important waterfowl production area and consequently provides the opportunity for both hunting in season and for viewing of the waterfowl as well. Facilities for the viewing public will be undertaken as a future date as funds become available. Recreational use is of course secondary to the primary objective of waterfowl management.

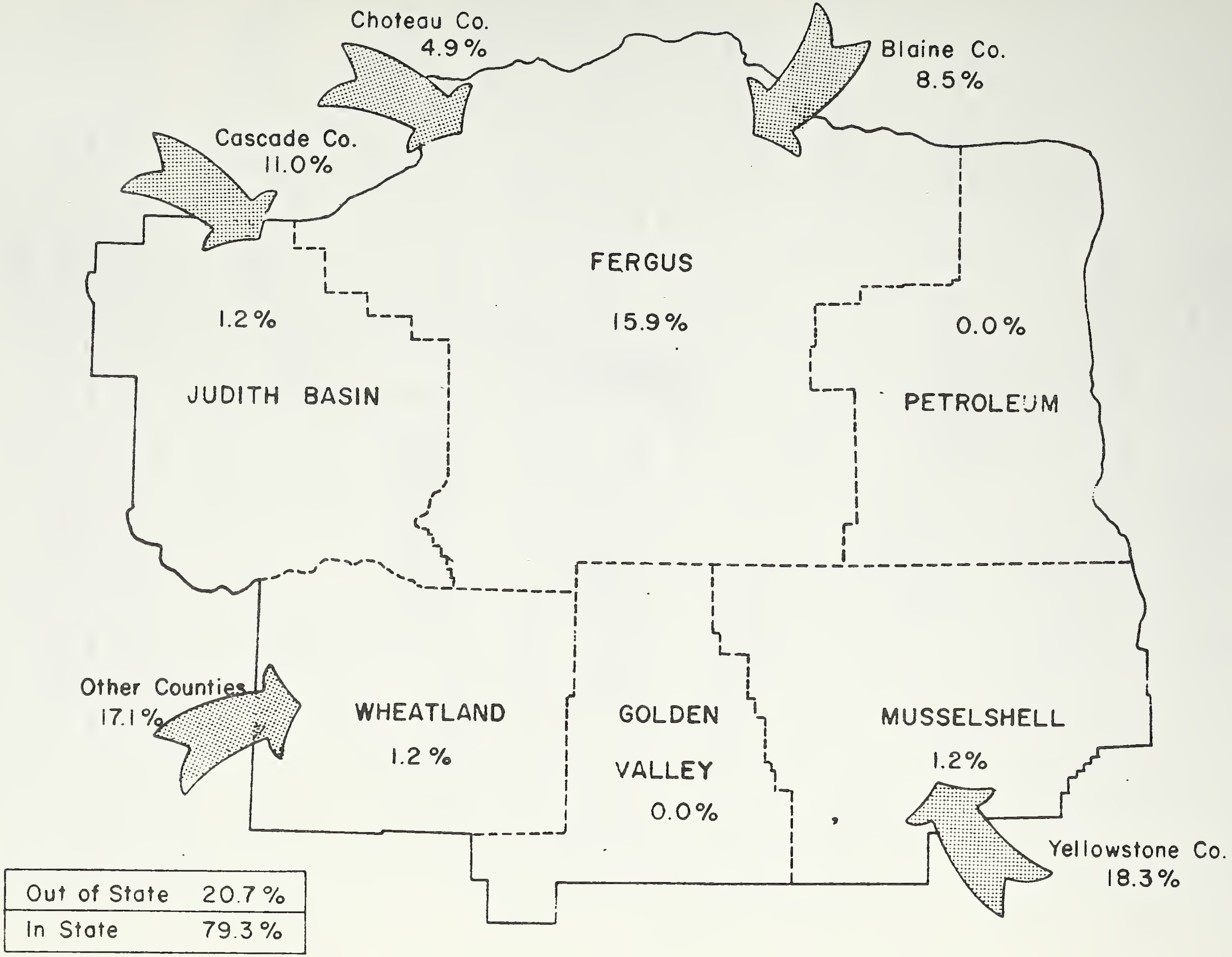
PLANNING REGION 6

Frequency of Participation in Selected Outdoor Recreation Activities by Montana Residents - Yearly Average



The above percentages represent an activity's portion of all recreation time.

ORIGIN OF PARTIES RECREATING IN PLANNING REGION 6

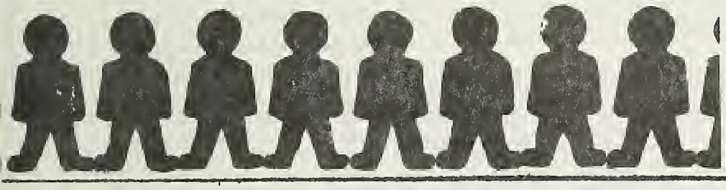

Choteau Co.
4.9%
Blaine Co.
8.5%
Cascade Co.
11.0%
FERGUS
15.9%
1.2%
JUDITH BASIN
0.0%
PETROLEUM
Other Counties
17.1%
WHEATLAND
1.2%
GOLDEN
VALLEY
0.0%
MUSSELSHELL
1.2%
Yellowstone Co.
18.3%
Out of State 20.7%
In State 79.3%

PLANNING REGION 6

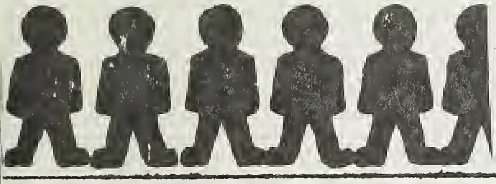
Leisure Time Activities Engaged in by Montana Residents - Yearly Average

Each man equals 2 responses

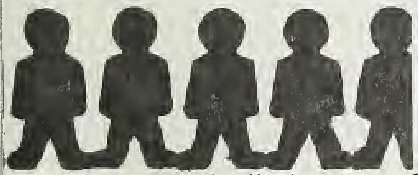
Indoor spectator activities (16.5)



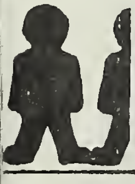
Social activities (11.3)



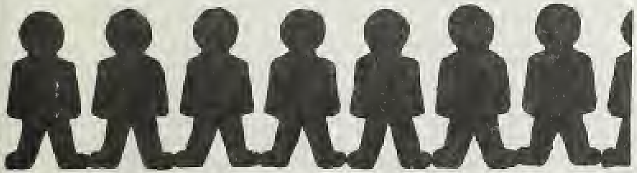
Indoor play activities (9.6)



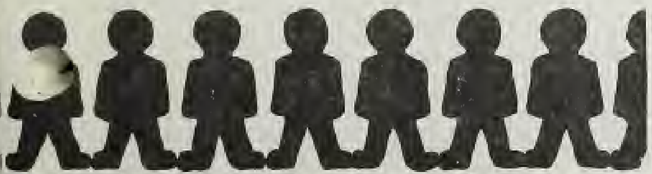
Self improvement activities (2.9)



Home related activities (14.5)



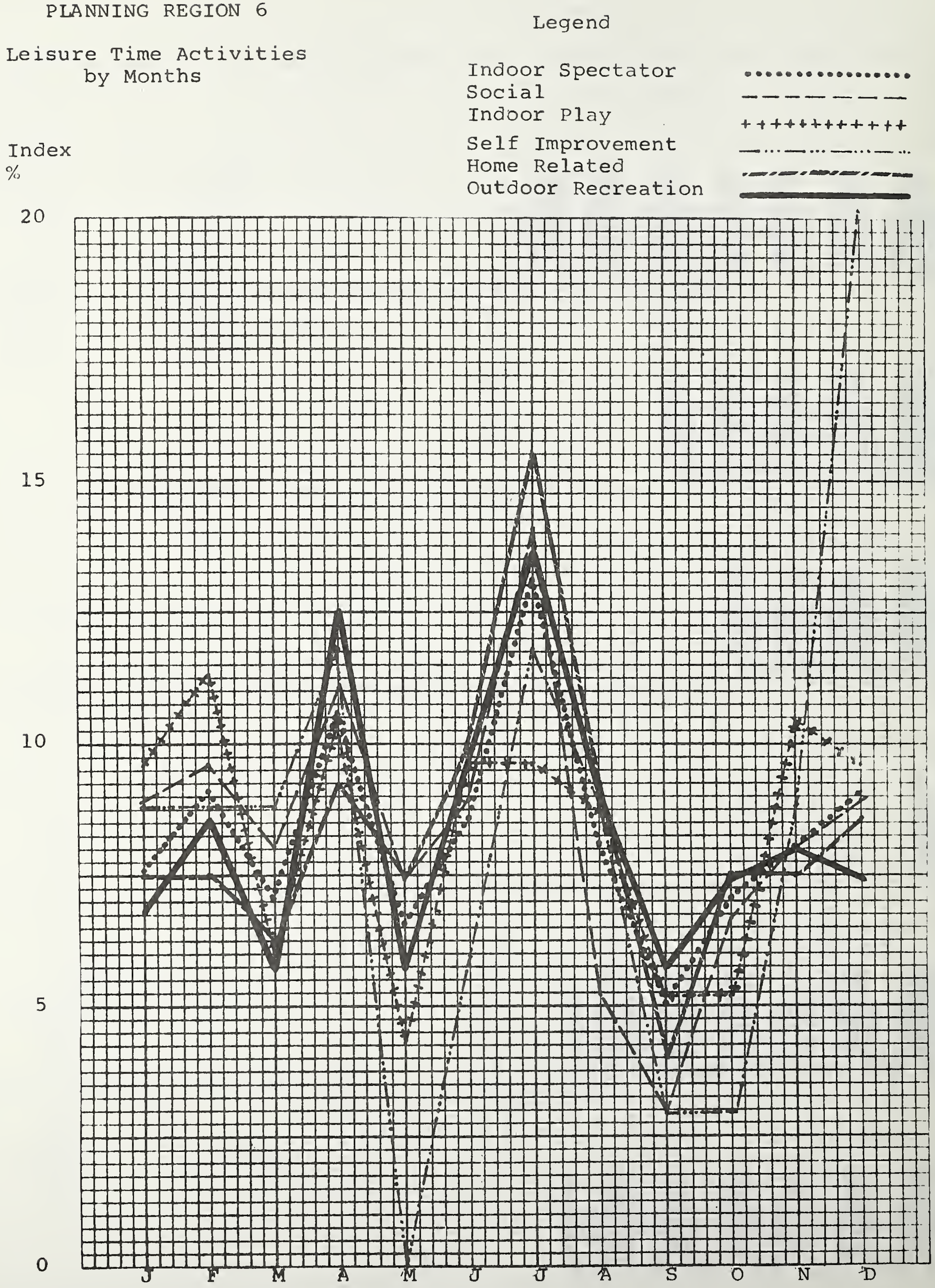
Outdoor recreation (14.7)



Above numbers indicate the average monthly responses from surveyed residents in the planning region.

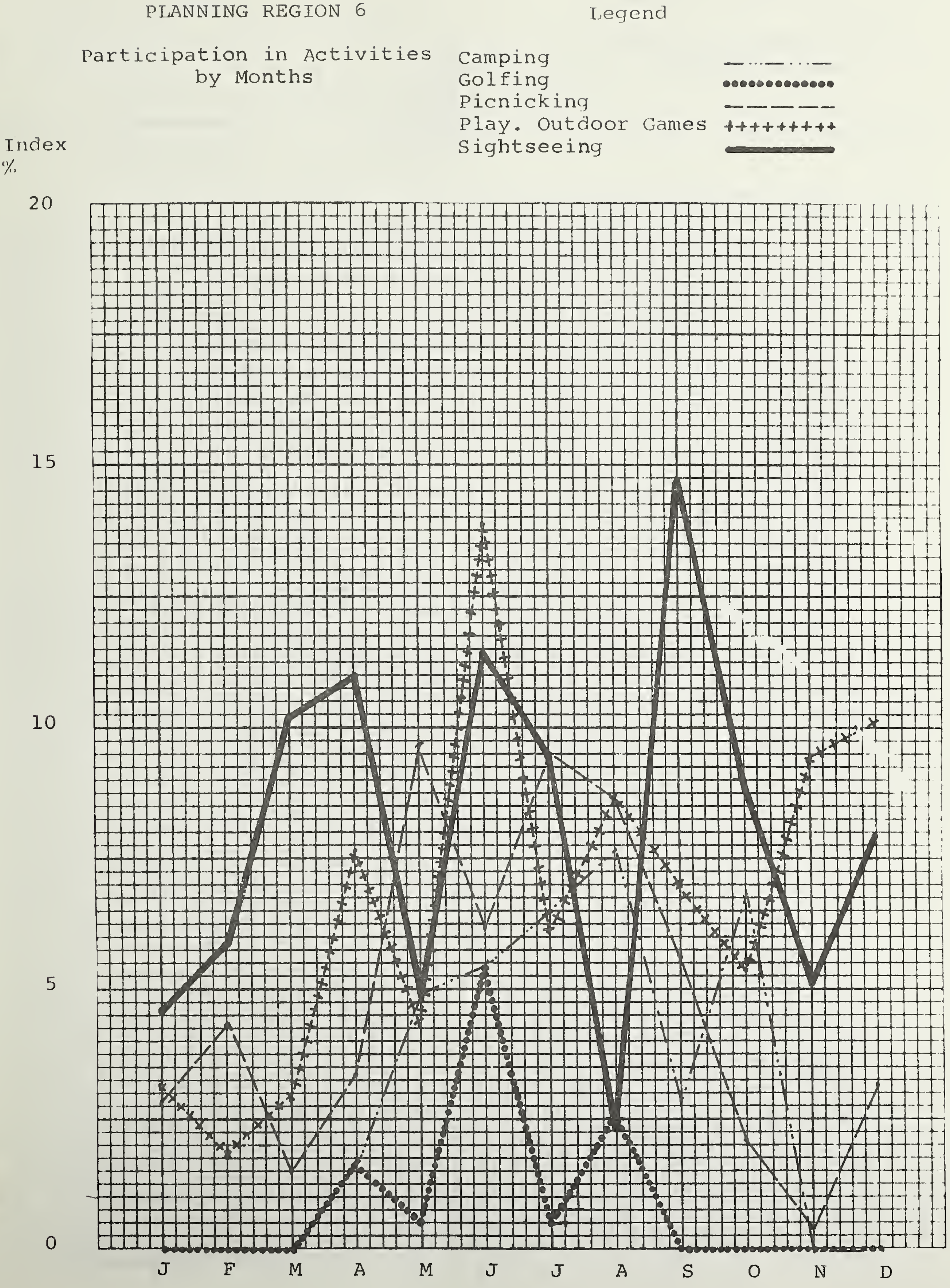
PLANNING REGION 6

Leisure Time Activities
by Months



PLANNING REGION 6

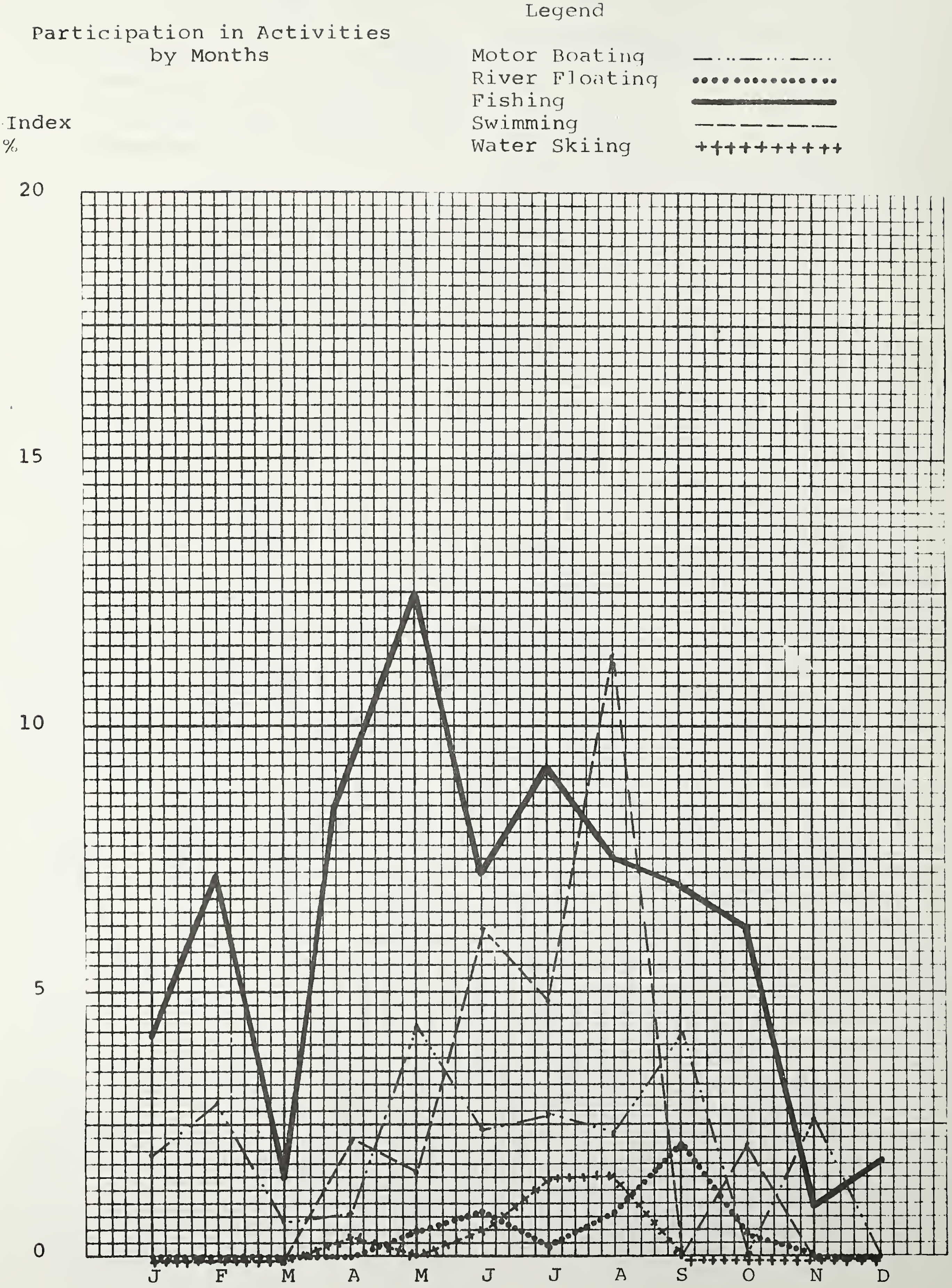
Participation in Activities by Months



Activities Concentrated in One Area

PLANNING REGION 6

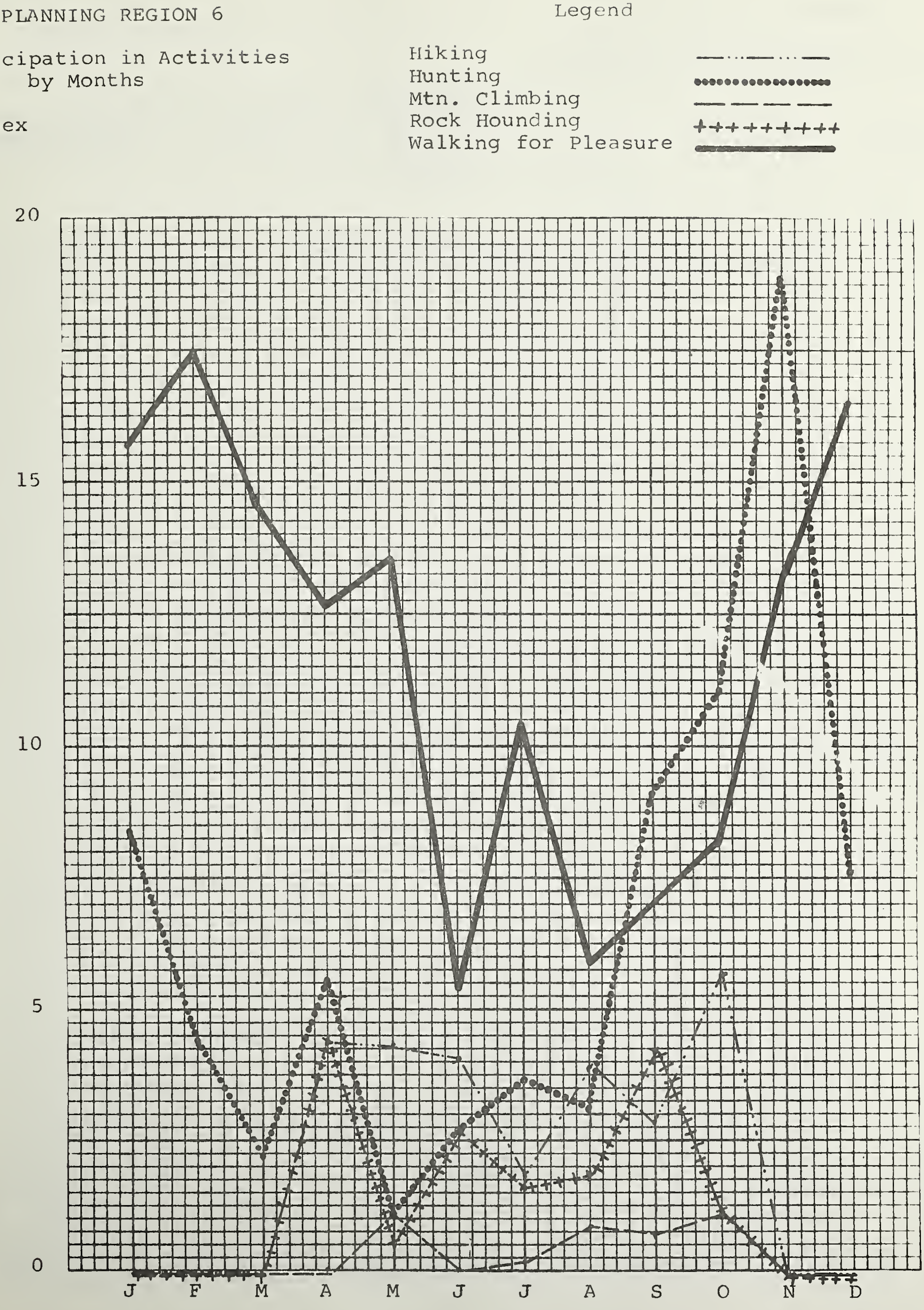
Participation in Activities by Months



Water Oriented Activities

PLANNING REGION 6

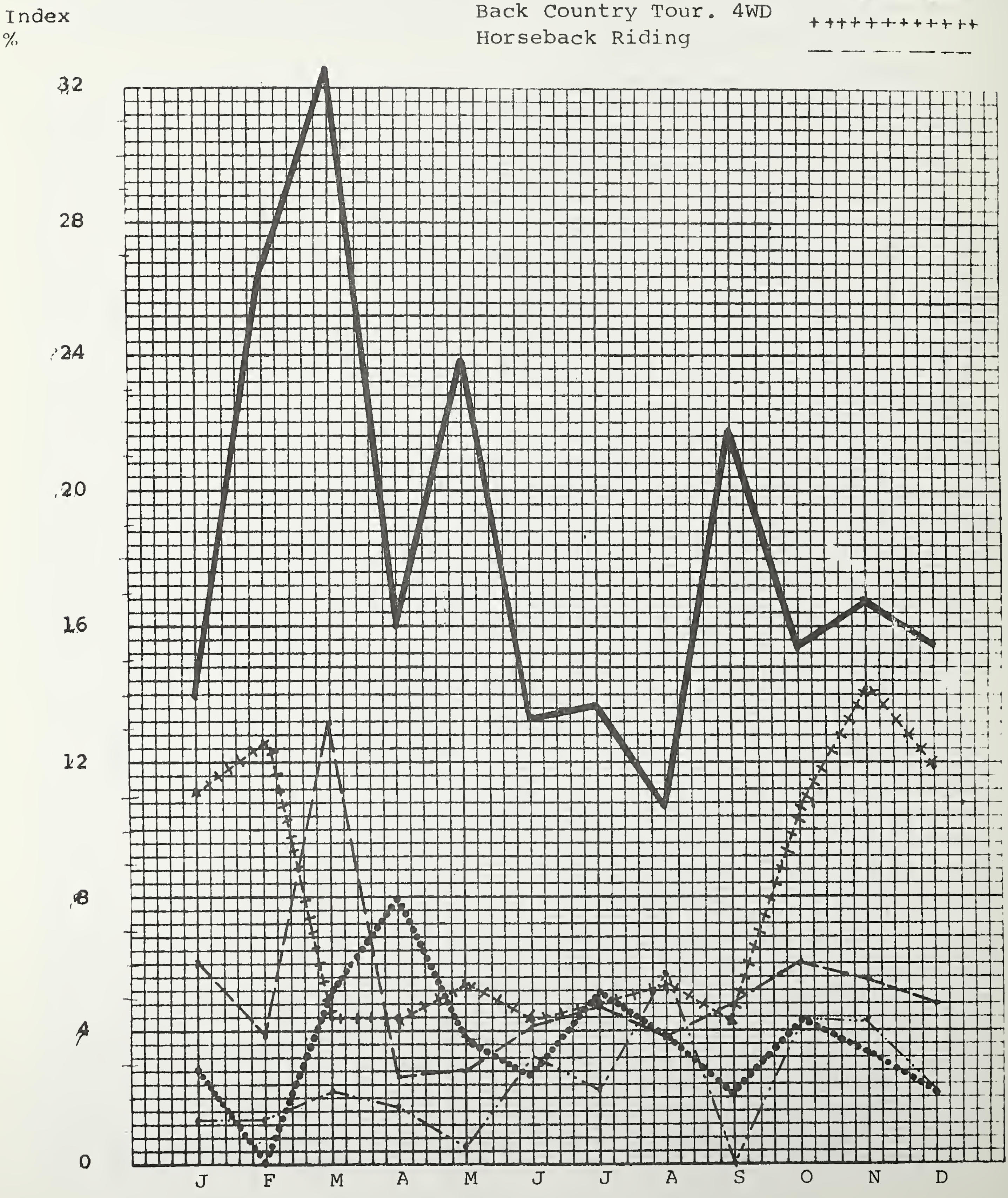
Participation in Activities by Months



Traveling Activities with/without Vehicle

PLANNING REGION 6

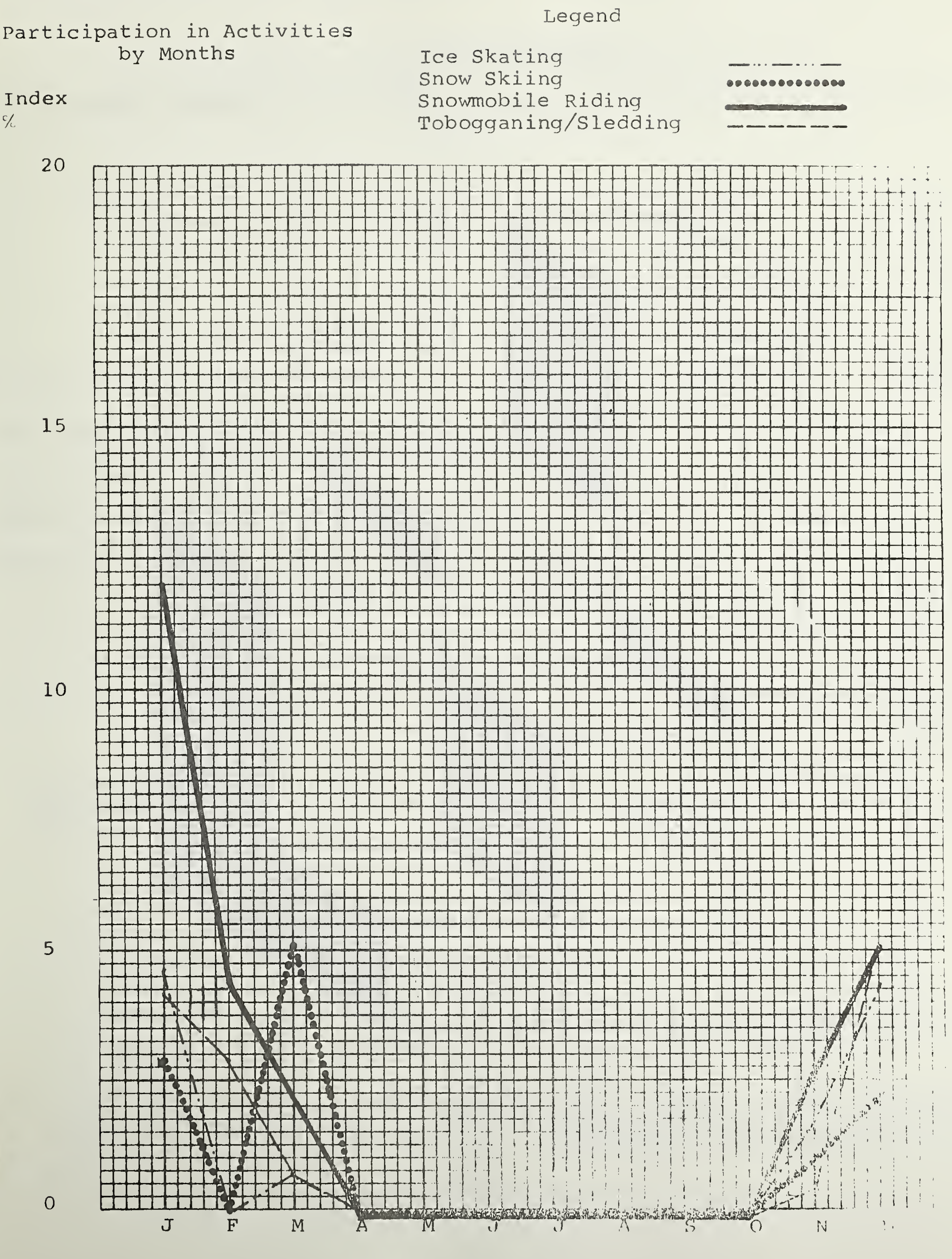
Participation in Activities
by Months



Traveling Activities - Vehicle Needed

PLANNING REGION 6

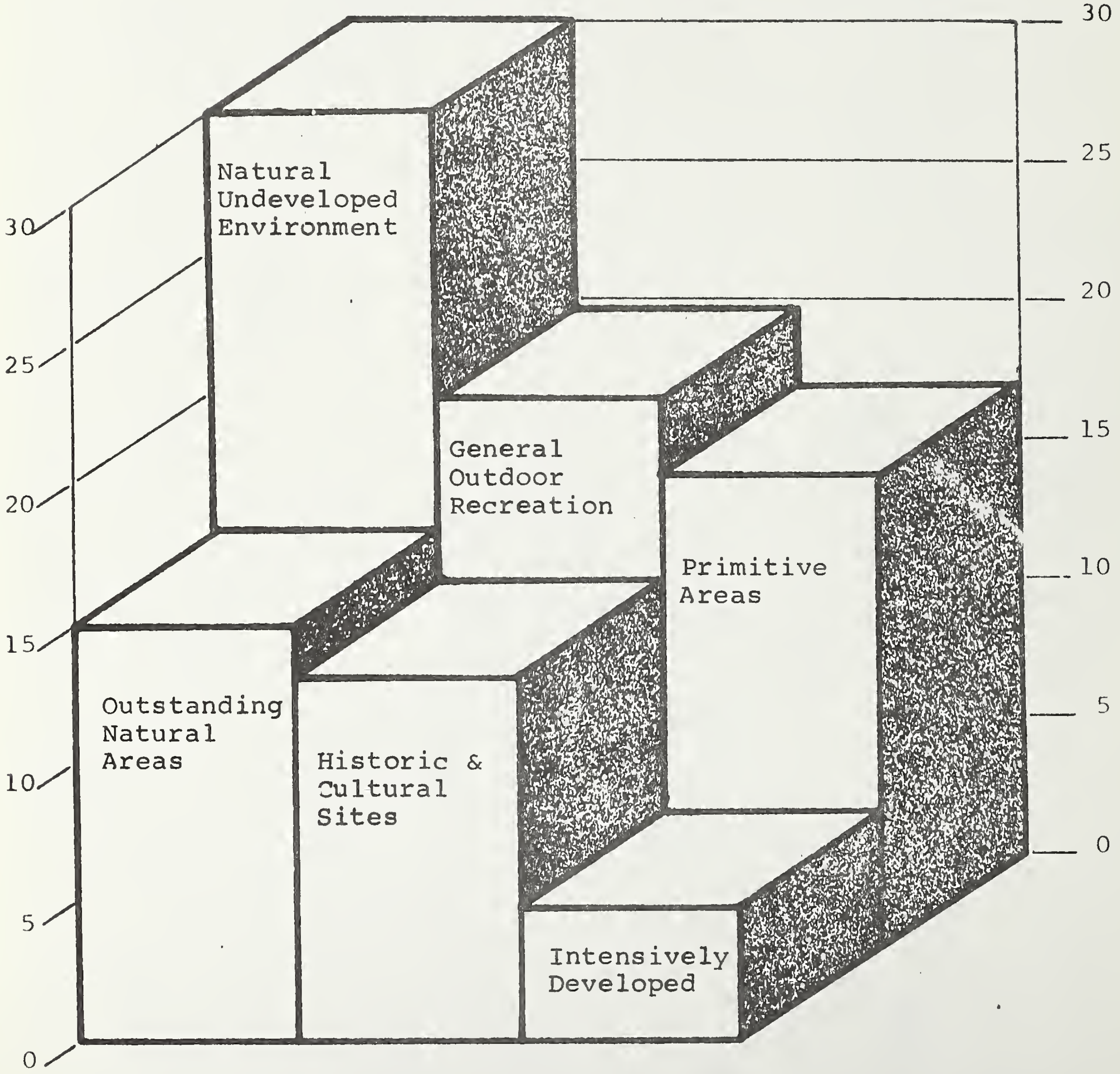
Participation in Activities
by Months



Winter Activities

PLANNING REGION 6

Preferences for Selected Types of Recreation Areas by Montana Residents
Yearly Totals



Numbers indicate a weighted percent based on the number of responses of the highest six preferences.

The following table tabulates facilities available for recreation in the municipalities of Harlowton, Lewistown, Roundup and Winnett.

MUNICIPAL FACILITIES

MUNICIPALITIES	1970 POPULATION	1972 PARK ACREAGE	Golf	Swimming Pool	Tennis	Multi-Purpose Courts	Baseball or Softball	Football	Children's Playgrounds	Large All Purpose Playfields	Picnic Areas	Designated Bike Trails	Indoor Recreation Centers	Facilities for the Handicapped	Special Accommodations for the Handicapped	
Harlowton	1,375	45					x		x	x	x					
	Facility Needs:								N	N1	N1					
Lewistown	6,437	30	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x		x	
	Facility Needs:										N	N	N	N		N2
Roundup	2,116	6		x	x	x	x		x	x	x					
	Facility Needs:															
Winnett	271	¼		x							x		x			
	Facility Needs:															
	Facility Needs:															
	Facility Needs:															
	Facility Needs:															

1. Improvements
2. Need for handball courts, girls basketball courts, steam room.

Recreation and parks expenditures, which include money for maintenance operation, personnel, acquisition, and development are tabulated below:

MUNICIPAL EXPENDITURES

	F. Y. 1970	F. Y. 1971	F. Y. 1972
Harlowton	$ 6,500	$ 8,000	$ 15,000
Lewistown	41,513	42,958	47,240
Roundup	17,410	17,640	18,140
Winnett	860	860	860

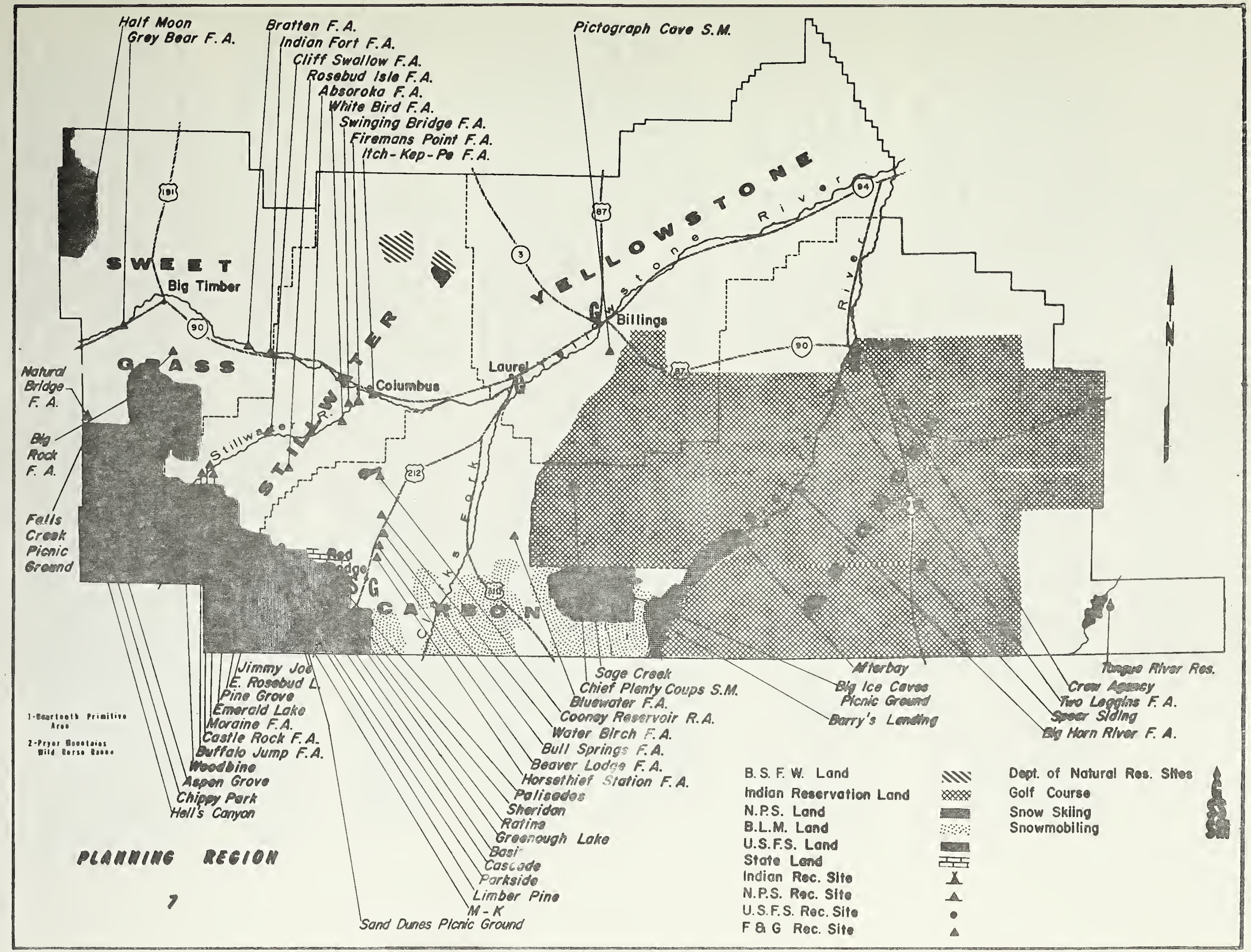
Harlowton indicates that provision of picnic areas and a baseball field are the top priorities in their town. Assistance from the state is required in terms of matching money through the B.O.R. program for development of Chief Joseph Park.

Lewistown's priorities are the picnic, overnight camping facilities and boat docks at area dams. The exchange between local schools and the civic center has increased outdoor recreation opportunity in Lewistown. For instance, there has been a joint sponsorship of fifth and sixth grades physical education and fitness program by the schools and civic center. A tract of park land may be lost to a new hospital building.

It is felt that the state should assist in developing recreation sites at area dams, and upgrade present parks. Recreation for small children is needed. State participation to 25% in funding local projects is desired. The greatest problems appear to be a lack of funds, and the interlocal agreement between the schools and city recreation program.

Roundup indicated few recreation problems at the present.

Winnett reports no needed recreation facilities. The park system consists of 2 lots, and the town hall is utilized as an indoor recreation center.


Half Moon
Grey Bear F. A.
Bratten F. A.
Indian Fort F. A.
Cliff Swallow F. A.
Rosebud Isle F. A.
Absoroka F. A.
White Bird F. A.
Swinging Bridge F. A.
Firemans Point F. A.
Itch-Kep-Pe F. A.
Pictograph Cave S.M.
SWEET GRASS
Big Timber
STILLWATER
Columbus
Stillwater R.
YELLOWSTONE
Yellowstone River
Billings
Laurel
CARBON
Red Lodge
Clarks Fork
191
90
3
87
94
212
310
Natural Bridge F. A.
Big Rock F. A.
Falls Creek Picnic Ground
Jimmy Joe
E. Rosebud L.
Pine Grove
Emerald Lake
Moraine F. A.
Castle Rock F. A.
Buffalo Jump F. A.
Woodbine
Aspen Grove
Chippy Park
Hell's Canyon
Sage Creek
Chief Plenty Coups S.M.
Bluewater F. A.
Cooney Reservoir R. A.
Water Birch F. A.
Bull Springs F. A.
Beaver Lodge F. A.
Horsethief Station F. A.
Palisades
Sheridan
Ratine
Greenough Lake
Basin
Cascade
Parkside
Limber Pine
M-K
Sand Dunes Picnic Ground
Afterbay
Big Ice Caves Picnic Ground
Barry's Landing
Tongue River Res.
Crow Agency
Two Leggins F. A.
Spear Siding
Big Horn River F. A.
1-Beartooth Primitive Area
2-Pryor Mountains Wild Horse Range
B. S. F. W. Land
Indian Reservation Land
N. P. S. Land
B. L. M. Land
U. S. F. S. Land
State Land
Indian Rec. Site
N. P. S. Rec. Site
U. S. F. S. Rec. Site
F & G Rec. Site
Dept. of Natural Res. Sites
Golf Course
Snow Skiing
Snowmobiling
N

PLANNING REGION 7

REGION 7

SUMMARY OF MAJOR RECREATION PROBLEMS

Any planning region which is adjacent to a National Park of the significance of Yellowstone is faced with a number of problems of great complexity and duration. Given the attractions of the regions adjoining the park and the populations concentration which is found in the Billings metropolitan area, together with the annual influx of the out-of-state visitor, the conditions affecting recreation are numerous and involved. As of this period, the problems have far outdistanced the planning and this is of the first order of remedial action.

The prime recreational resources are concentrated in the southwesterly portion, and as a consequence, the usage of these by a large population results in congestion or in the lack of opportunity for all who would desire it. The relatively short travel distance, a convenience in other regions, means that in this region efforts to disperse use and to provide alternative sources are a major need.

The economic impact of the proximity to Yellowstone Park is highly favorable to the community generally. The impact upon the natural environmental areas is a matter for serious evaluation and one that will not be readily solved. As accommodations and travel within the park become more limited, the consequence will be noted directly in the areas adjoining. It is a matter of immediate concern and merits active planning efforts on the part of the public and private sector combined. Basic to the situation is the fact that contributions by the private sector to resolution of these problems will depend entirely upon the potential economic benefit to that sector.

Public agencies faced with administering recreation resources in the region will have increasing problems of management due to the constantly changing makeup of the visitors to the region. Each season influx of visitors brings new individuals who are totally unfamiliar with the region, resulting in continuing problems of information and service.

From the viewpoint of the visitor, the lack of familiarity with the great variety of recreation available means difficulty in planning a satisfactory recreational visit.

While a study has not been made of the situation, it can be assumed that a great many of the residents of Billings are not receiving full benefit of the outdoor recreation opportunity that exists in the region. It is recognized that special facilities would be advantageous in providing this opportunity, plus special considerations in design and planning of the facilities. The needs of the elderly, less capable and handicapped and those with cultural differences need consideration in providing outdoor recreation opportunities.

GEOGRAPHIC, POPULATION AND HISTORIC CHARACTERISTICS

The grandeur of the Beartooth Plateau is the outstanding geographic feature of the entire region, though it occupies but a small portion of the total resource area. Its rugged foothills and benchlands extend for long distances along the river valleys and on to the plains, dominating them and causing them to be termed altogether the Beartooth Foreland. The foreland has gentler uplands suitable for dryland farming interspersed with occasional bluffs formed when ancient streams cut through sandstone formations to leave precipitous cliffs. The most prominent of these are the spectacular rimrocks, creating a backdrop of note for the city of Billings. For the out-of-stater, the entire region is simply "The Gateway to Yellowstone Park".

While the Beartooths contain some of the highest elevations and some of the more intractable of the alpine regions, the remainder of this five county area is noted for the livability of its climate and landscape. The Crow Chief Arapooish described it thus...

"The Crow country is a good country. The Great Spirit has put it exactly in the right place; when you are in it you fare well. Whenever you go out of it, whichever way you travel, you fare worse. The Crow country is exactly in the right place. It has snowy mountains and sunny plains, all kinds of climates and good things for every season. When the summer heat scorches the prairies, you can draw up under the mountains, where the air is sweet and cool, the grass fresh and the bright streams come tumbling out of the snowbanks..."

Rolling prairie country comprises much of Region 7 with sharp contrasts given by three mountain ranges - the Pryors, the eastern portion of the Crazy Mountains, and the Beartooth Plateau, which contains the highest point in the state, 12,000 foot Granite Peak. Glaciation has cut the Beartooths and Crazies into spectacular mountain scenery. The broad Yellowstone River drains the region west to east. The natural vegetation varies greatly in the region from sagebrush and undifferentiated grasses to the forest and alpine vegetation in the higher elevations. Cottonwoods, willows and other deciduous trees and shrubs live in the valleys.

The Yellowstone River is the most prominent water feature of the region. The larger tributaries include the Bighorn, the Clark's Fork, the Stillwater and Boulder Rivers. The major lakes in the area include Cooney Reservoir, Tongue River Reservoir and Bighorn Lake.

The climate in Region 7 is characterized by low winter temperatures, which can rapidly fluctuate, and often very hot days in mid-summer. Extremes vary from about minus 30° - 40° to over 100° in July and August. Rainfall averages about 14 inches annually with several local variations due to elevation, geographical location, etc.

According to the official 1970 census, 112,116 people live in the region, mostly in the Billings area. County totals follow:

Region 7 Population Distribution

County	Persons
Big Horn	10,057
Carbon	7,080
Stillwater	4,632
Sweet Grass	2,980
Yellowstone	87,367
Region Total	112,116

Most of the regional population is in the Billings vicinity. Most of the remainder of the people live in the Clark Fork, Yellowstone, Big Horn and Stillwater River valleys. The western portion of the region's population is sparse, but rather evenly distributed. Billings, population 61,581 is the largest city in the region. Laurel, population 4,454; Hardin, population 2,733; Red Lodge, population 1,844; Big Timber, population 1,592; and Columbus, population 1,173 are the largest region towns. The regional statistic of 69.9% urban dwellers is perhaps misleading since only 2,733 people outside Yellowstone County are considered urbanites.

The 1970 census showed Yellowstone County gaining 10.6% from the 1960 figure. Big Horn County lost 0.5%, Sweet Grass County lost 9.4%, Carbon County lost 14.9%, and Stillwater County lost 16.2% during the same period.

American Indians make up 4.5% of the 1970 regional population. Big Horn County, containing both the Northern Cheyenne and Crow Indian Reservations, has 3,917 Indians (38.9% of its population) and Yellowstone County has 1,063 Indians (1.2% of its population). Very few Indians live in the other three counties. Other minority races make up less than .5% of the 1970 regional populace.

Region 7 is served by rail and air transportation with a major airport located at Billings. Interstate 90 serves the region from the south. Near Billings it merges with Interstate 94 which crosses the region roughly east and west. U.S. 212 and U.S. 310 serve the region from the south. Several state primary and secondary roads are scattered throughout the region.

Most of the region's economy is agricultural with the exception of Yellowstone County, one of the state's major economic centers. Transportation, professional services, manufacturing and wholesale-retail trade are important facets of Yellowstone County's economic picture. Wholesale-retail trade and professional services are important to other regional counties along with agriculture.

Public land in Region 7 accounts for 16.8% of all land in the region. The following table shows the percentages and square miles totals of all public land in each county:

Public Land in Region 7 *

County	Percentage	Square Miles
Big Horn	3.6	184
Carbon	42.7	885
Stillwater	21.2	382
Sweet Grass	29.4	542
Yellowstone	9.7	258
	16.8	2251

* Does not include local government land

This public land is administered as follows:

Public Land Administration - Region 7

Agency	Land (acres)
Federal	
U.S. Forest Service	787,058
Bureau of Land Management	337,905
Bureau of Sport Fisheries & Wildlife	5,352
Bureau of Reclamation	3,191
National Park Service	758
U.S. Army	162
Total	1,134.426
State	
Dept. of State Lands (not including State Forest)	299,495
Montana Department of Fish & Game	2,713
Total	302,208
Indian Reservation Land	
Crow Reservation	2,045,000
Northern Cheyenne Reservation	195,500
Total	2,240,500

Local

Community Parks (Billings, Columbus, Bridger)	1,311

Regional Points of Interest

Pompey's Pillar

A well-known site of the Lewis and Clark expedition where Captain Clark carved his name on this rock in 1806.

Crow Indian Reservation

Tribal offices are located at Crow Agency. The mountainous portions of the reservation are closed to trespass by white men.

Custer Battlefield National Monument

Site where General Custer and the Seventh Cavalry were slain in 1876.

Yellowtail Dam and Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area

A spectacular scenic area where water sports of all kinds can be engaged in.

Beartooth Country

Over 500 lakes exist in this alpine country, much of which is accessible only by foot. The Beartooth highway traverses the area reaching 10,940 feet. Many recreation facilities are available in the vicinity.

Red Lodge

A recreation and ski center. Annual Festival of Nations takes place in August.

Billings

The state's largest city is home of Eastern Montana College and Rocky Mountain College.

Historic Sites

Region 7 has abundant historic areas pertaining to the Indian culture and wars, in addition to sites relating to the early fur trading commerce.

Chief Plenty Coups State Monument honors a famous Crow Indian leader; Crooks fight on the Rosebud in June of 1876 was a standoff, and preceded Custer's fight on the Little Bighorn by less than ten days. Pictograph Cave commemorates a middle to late prehistoric archaelogical site. Pompey's Pillar, a well known site on the Lewis and Clark expedition, was the site of Clark's inscribing his name in rock in 1806. Many more interesting and important sites await the visitor in this history-rich area.

Below is a summary chart listing the major historic sites in Region 7.

Historic Sites in Region 7

Historic Sites	County	Significant Dates	Significance
Big Horn Canyon	Big Horn	early prehistoric	Prehistoric-aboriginal
Bozeman Trail	Big Horn et al	1880's	Historic-aboriginal
NR Chief Plenty Coups Memorial	Big Horn	1848	Hist-aboriginal
NR Crook's Fight on the Rosebud	Big Horn	1876	Military
Crow Agency III	Big Horn	1884	Hist-aboriginal
NHL-NR Custer Battlefield National Monument	Big Horn	1876	Military
Far West Island	Big Horn	1885	Transportation
Fort Custer	Big Horn	1876	Hist-aboriginal
Fort C.F. Smith	Big Horn	1866	Hist-aboriginal
Fox, Livingston & Co. Post	Big Horn	1843	Commerce
Hayfield Fight	Big Horn	1867	Hist-aboriginal
Will James Ranch	Big Horn	1920's	Literature
Pryor Mtns. Arch. District	Big Horn	mid-prehistoric	Preh-aboriginal
St. Xavier Mission	Big Horn	1886	Hist-aboriginal
Kobold Buffalo Jump	Big Horn	mid-prehistoric	Preh-aboriginal
Superintendent's Lodge, Custer Battlefield	Big Horn	1894	Architecture
Sword Bearer Incidnet	Big Horn	1887	Hist-aboriginal
Yellowstone Expedition Fights	Big Horn	1874	Military
Black & White Trail	Carbon	1870's	Transportation
Bridger Trail	Carbon et al	1880's	Transportation
Joliet-Fromberg Stage Rt.	Carbon	1870's	Transportation
Meeteetse Trail	Carbon et al	1888	Commerce
Clark's Dugouts Construction Site	Stillwater	1806	Exploration
Crow Agency II	Stillwater	1876	Hist-aboriginal
Keough Buffalo Jump	Stillwater	mid-prehistoric	Preh-aboriginal
Nye City	Stillwater	1885	Industry
Thomas Party Massacre	Sweet Grass	1866	Hist-aboriginal
Baker's Fight on the Yellowstone	Yellowstone	1872	Military
Billings Bison Jump	Yellowstone	mid-prehistoric	Preh-aboriginal
Canyon Creek Fight	Yellowstone	1877	Military
Coulson	Yellowstone	1878	Commerce
Coulson "Boot Hill"	Yellowstone	1878	Commerce
Jones & Immel Ambush Site	Yellowstone	1823	Commerce
Junction City	Yellowstone	1800's	Commerce
Luther Kelly Gravesite	Yellowstone	1870's	Military
NR Parmely-Billings Library	Yellowstone	1901	Architecture
NHL-NR Pictograph Cave	Yellowstone	2000 B.C.	Preh-aboriginal
NHL-NR Pompey's Pillar	Yellowstone	1806	Exploration
Smallpox Epidemic Sites	Yellowstone	1837	Hist-aborigi
Terry's Landing	Yellowstone	1883	Military
NR Billings Ch. of Comm.	Yellowstone	1911	Architecture

NR = Site on National Register
NHL = Site is a National Historic Landmark

CHARACTERISTICS OF RECREATION USE

Leisure Time in Region 7

Indoor spectator activities in Region 7 account for the greatest amount of time spent in leisure activities. Residents of Region 7 engaged in outdoor recreation as the second most popular leisure time group of activities. Home-related activities were the third most popular group. Over the 12-month period, the greatest amount of leisure time available was indicated for February. The least amount was available in June.

Although the six categories of leisure time activities moved relatively consistently together throughout the year, outdoor recreation predominated in the months of June, July and August. Indoor spectator activities were on the average popular throughout the year.

(For a more complete graphic account see Appendix.)

The Characteristics and Viewpoints of the Park User in Region 7

The greatest number of users of facilities in Region 7 were Montana residents. They accounted for roughly 75% of all use in the region. Twenty-five percent were non-residents. The greatest number of residents recreating in this region originated in Yellowstone County - a percentage of approximately 61%. Use of facilities located in Region 7 by Montana residents living outside of this region was relatively small. Many recreationists in addition to using facilities in Region 7 also traveled to Planning Region 9 to recreate. The most frequently encountered number of persons in the recreating group using facilities in Region 7 was a party of two.

Region 7 is one of the few areas in Central or Eastern Montana in which day use visits were about equal to overnight and more lengthy stays at the various recreation sites. As one moves into the more mountainous regions of Western Montana, the relative importance of day use to overnight or lengthy stays declines as indicated by the length of stay on the Recreation Area Survey.

More recreationists chose a recreation site for its surrounding natural beauty in Region 7 than for any other region. Region 7 was one of three regions in the state where natural beauty was considered to be the most prevalent reason for chosing a site. The second most prevalent reason given was that the recreation site was one at which a desired activity could be engaged in. Conditions of facilities in Region 7 were generally on a par or above the state average.

Environmental factors were also on a par with state average except for the amount of space available in recreation areas. Here, the space available at recreation areas rank above the state average indicating an ample amount of space for recreation users. Only 28% of all recreationists surveyed indicated a need for additional activities or facilities at selected areas in the region.

Resting and relaxing, camping, fishing, walking for pleasure and hiking were the five most popular activities, in that order, which the park user engaged in, in Region 7. When it came to stated preferences, fishing was the most preferred activity for the user, and hiking also gained in preference as well as picnicking. Walking for pleasure was not preferred to as high a degree as it was apparently engaged in by the user.

Implications:

1. One out of every four recreationists was a non-resident and this percentage of non-resident to resident might increase in the future because of the nearness to Yellowstone National Park. AS natural beauty was a major reason for selecting a recreation area in this region, this would probably be a factor which the non-resident would also be interested in.

2. Day use facilities demand somewhat of a less high priority in Region 7. Facilities to accommodate overnight and more lengthy camping visits would conversely be given a higher priority.

3. An adequate job of maintaining facilities is being done by public agencies in Region 7. This is supported partially by the fact that the facility conditions are on a par or better than the state average and that relatively few users indicated a need for added facilities at selected areas in Region 7. The condition of environmental factors at recreation areas in the region also is quite adequate and this suggests satisfaction with the recreation areas.

4. The high incidence of resting and relaxing in this region would again indicate the need for those facilities which can accommodate passive recreation activities. Walkways, rest areas, interpretive signs, shelters and pleasant landscaping are all factors which would be included in this concept.

5. Camping and fishing areas, in addition to hiking trails, are also other activities and facilities which should get increased attention in Region 7. The preference for fishing being as high as it is, would indicate that more fishing might be done if there were more and better fishing access sites.

The Montana Resident

Characteristics of the resident respondents can be found in the Appendix. These data include the respondent's marital status, sex, age, household status, employment, vacation allowance, available time and general health.

Tables following indicate the frequency of participation in various activities by those surveyed, and is a measure of their popularity in Region 7.

Some correlation exists between the recreation activities engaged in by Montana residents and those indicated as most preferred. Although driving for pleasure again ranked first both in participation and preference, other activities were not in comparable positions as far as participation and preference is concerned. Walking for pleasure and sightseeing rated second and third in activities actually participated in, but such activities as fishing, hunting and camping rated much higher in preference than they were actually engaged in.

Fishing was the most popular water oriented activity and reached a peak in the warmer months. In no month was its popularity exceeded by any other water oriented activity, though swimming reached its peak in the summer months. Snowmobiling was by far the most popular winter activity and was exceeded only by snow skiing in December by residents of Region 7. Sightseeing was the most popular activity in its category reaching a low point in early summer. At this point it was exceeded in popularity by picnicking and outdoor games. Walking for pleasure was by far the most popular activity which involved mobility and reached its peak in early spring, climbing again in the fall. It was exceeded in popularity in October by hunting. Driving for pleasure far exceeded other activities in popularity throughout the year. Its low point was reached in the warmer months.

(For a detailed graphic account see Appendix.)

Residents of Region 7 preferred the natural undeveloped environment areas more than any other type of area. These include areas which are largely undeveloped but where various types of recreation such as camping, fishing or picnicking can take place. General outdoor recreation areas were preferred next, and these sites include forest and park campgrounds where picnicking, boating or camping facilities are generally available. The third most preferred type of area was the outstanding natural area, such as the Beartooth Plateau or Yellowstone National Park; primitive areas were very close to outstanding natural areas in popularity.

Implications:

1. Driving for pleasure and sightseeing are two of the most popular activities engaged in by residents of Region 7. This would imply that existing roads could be provided with facilities to enhance driving for pleasure and sightseeing for residents of Region 7. Included in this driving for pleasure and sightseeing concept are points of interest, rest stops and if possible a loop road to bring the user back to his point of origin. Such features would make driving for pleasure a more desirable activity.

2. Walking for pleasure, passive in nature, is also important to residents of this region. Facilities such as walkways and rest stops should be provided at natural areas, other points of interest and urban areas.

3. Other activities which should receive above average consideration are fishing, hunting and camping - all highly preferred in this region.

4. Region 7 residents engage in snowmobiling, snow-skiing and other winter activities to some extent, and within Region 7 there are many desirable areas which can accommodate these winter activities. Additional facilities to accommodate such activities should be provided, particularly at some of the more interesting natural areas in the mountainous region.

5. Children's activities which should receive greater attention in the future are bicycling, playing outdoor games and swimming.

6. Access to natural environment areas in more remote parts of the region should be assured. Developed facilities for those interested in general outdoor recreation areas should be provided.

Problems and Potentials in Recreation for Region 7

The potential for driving for pleasure, the primary activity in Region 7, is highest along the Yellowstone River Valley and in the mountainous areas to the south and west. All of these areas have a fair amount of natural and scenic areas which enhance driving for pleasure. In an attempt to enhance driving for pleasure, the impact any development might have on semi-wilderness areas must be considered as well as the effect on private lands. The Beartooth highway, which is an established scenic route, does appear to need more interpretation and development to enhance driving for pleasure. This could also be said of the Pryor Mountains area.

Walking for pleasure, the second most popular activity of residents in Region 7, has much potential in some of the more scenic areas in the region and within the urban areas. There appears to be a need for development of walking trails around the West Rosebud, Wild Bill and other lakes in Region 7. Pleasant walkways are needed near or within many of the towns so they may be utilized by the many elderly persons residing in these towns. In addition, walking trails for the blind and the handicapped must be considered when development of such facilities is proposed. In and near Billings there is a need for walkways of this nature along the canal and rivers. The Boulder River, Alpine plateaus, the Rimrocks at Billings, Young Point on the Yellowstone River and the Big Horn Canyon all appear as good possibilities for walking trail development.

Sightseeing in the area has very high potential as the Alpine country and the Beartooth plateau to the southwest, and the Pryor Mountains in the southern part of the region, offer spectacular scenery. These areas are ones of outstanding natural beauty and are a great attraction to not only Region 7 but the State of Montana. In addition, the Big Horn Canyon Recreation Area also offers a sightseeing and archaeological exploring opportunity. Further, Region 7 has an abundance of historic areas, many located in Yellowstone and Big Horn Counties. These many areas are related to the early Indian and trade eras.

Fishing opportunities are especially abundant in Region 7. There are many fishing access sites available at the present time but the increase of use from the Billings urban area and non-residents coming to the area enroute to Yellowstone National Park undoubtedly will put more pressure on these present fishing access sites. The lack of access and the rising cost of land are also problems which inhibit development of more sites.

Picnicking is frequently associated with other types of activity and is very popular in Region 7. Group facilities could be provided on a greater scale for residents of this region. Presently, at Chief Plenty Coups State Monument, plans do include provision for group picnic use. There are many fine picnic sites in the area, closely associated with the points of interest or natural and scenic areas. There is a lack of good picnicking areas in the immediate vicinity of Billings. Most people desire shade trees, water and clean facilities when picnicking.

Back country touring, a popular activity for many residents of the region will probably come under more confinement when public lands are used. Many public agencies, on a national level, have indicated that 4-wheel drive vehicles and other off-road vehicles will be limited to certain areas and to the various roads which are in existence in the various areas. Problems of this recreation activity include the damage to the vegetation and terrain from overuse of such vehicles, in particular, when going cross country.

Bicycling has some potential in the area, in particular along the Yellowstone River Valley area. There are no existing bike trails in Region 7 presently. It is possible the Beartooth highway could provide a great opportunity for some bike trail development. Frontage roads in this region may also be good places to promote bicycling.

Recreation areas in Region 7 can accommodate camping, both of a transient nature and pack trip camping, in addition to camping with tents, trailers or pickup campers. Many of the forest service campgrounds are associated with distinctive natural areas. Much of the pack trip camping is often done in the Beartooth Wilderness area. Transient camping is highly dependent on tourist routes such as U.S. 212 running east and west through the region into the Beartooth country and eventually to Yellowstone. It seems there is a high potential for private campground development in this region, expecially along this major tourist route. In Custer National Forest many facilities are not presently being used to capacity during the week. Weekend use, however, is over and above the capacity of existing facilities. When facilities are full, campers often resort to camping in roadways or wherever possible. Part of the problem stems from the fact that Yellowstone National Park has put a limit on the number of campers that are permitted to camp in the Park, thus, the overflow is beginning to be felt in the fringe areas. Existing camp facilities on the Custer National Forest probably will not be expanded in the near future. Ongoing studies are being conducted to try and determine capacities of various areas on the national forests. Many campers use vehicles in their camping endeavor and water is a prime attraction for them. Many campgrounds are presently located along waterways or at lakes, but of the 500 lakes in the Beartooth area, campers may take vehicles to only three of the. The B.L.M. in Region 7 plans limited campground development, but the required funds to complete such a project are not available. The Fish and Game Department is planning for some campground expansion both at Cooney Reservoir and at three fishing access sites along the Stillwater River. These campgrounds and their development are contingent upon legislative funding.

Hiking has almost unlimited potential in Region 7 with the Beartooth plateau region in the southwest part of the region providing one of the greater opportunities for the very capable and skilled hikers. In this high alpine region are located a myriad of lakes, forests and a prime wilderness area accessible only by foot. The Pryor Mountains also offer some hiking opportunity as well as the Crazy Mountains in the northwest corner of the region.

Horseback riding has relatively high potential, especially near the mountainous areas. Permits are required to take a horse into the Beartooth Wilderness area so that the riders may be directed to unused areas, and for control of use patterns and to insure that there will be forage available for the horses when grazed. Uninspected hay may not be brought into the wilderness areas because of the danger of bringing in noxious weeds.

Water sports such as swimming, boating, water skiing and river floating are quite popular with residents of Region 7. Yellowtail Reservoir offers one of the better areas to engage in many of these water sports. One of the problems is the difficult access both to reach the area from population centers and actual access to the waters edge. A proposed route from Billings to the reservoir is being considered; this would help alleviate the problem. Clark's Fork of the Yellowstone River and the Stillwater River as well as the Big Horn River offer many areas in which river floating and swimming may be engaged in. The demand for such water access probably will continue to increase in the future.

Winter sports such as snowmobiling, sledding, snowshoeing and ice skating have good potential in Region 7. For snow skiing, cross-country skiing and snow shoeing, the Beartooth Mountains provide an exceptional area in which to engage in these winter activities. Presently, there are two snow skiing resorts and three designated snowmobile trails in the area just southwest of Red Lodge. The heavy and continuous winter snowfall make this an ideal area for such winter sport activities.

Inventory of Facilities

Federal and State Recreation Facilities

In Region 7 the U.S. Forest Service and the Montana Fish and Game Department presently provide the greater number of recreation facilities and land for public recreation use. Major areas with selected facilities are summarized below:

FEDERAL AND STATE RECREATION AREAS - REGION 7

Federal	Picnic Units	Camping Units	Swimming	Fishing	Boat Ramp
National Park Service					
After Bay	5	10	0	X	X
Barry's Landing	5	10	0	X	X
Total	10	20	0	2	2

Federal (cont'd)	Picnic Units	Camping Units	Swimming	Fishing	Boat Ramp
U. S. Forest Service (as of March 1, 1974)					
Custer N.F.					
Big Ice Cave	7	0	0	0	0
Basin	0	28	0	X	0
Cascade	0	30	0	X	0
East Rosebud Lake	0	12	0	X	X
Emerald Lake	11	21	0	X	0
Greenough Lake	0	17	0	X	0
Initial Creek	0	4	0	X	0
Jimmy Joe	0	10	0	X	0
Limber Pine	0	13	0	X	0
Little Rocky	0	6	0	X	0
M-K	0	10	0	X	0
Palisades	0	7	0	X	0
Parkside	4	15	0	X	0
Pine Grove	0	46	0	X	0
Ratine	1	4	0	X	0
Sage Creek	0	12	0	X	0
Sand Dunes Picnic Ground	10	0	0	X	0
Sheridan	0	8	0	X	0
Wild Bills Lake	6	0	0	X	0
Woodbine	3	43	0	X	0
Gallatin N.F.					
Aspen Grove	0	11	0	X	0

	Picnic Units	Camping Units	Swim-ming	Fish-ing	Boat Ramp
Chippy Park	0	4	0	X	0
East Boulder	4	0	0	X	0
Half Moon	0	9	0	X	0
Hell's Canyon	0	11	0	X	0
Total	46	321	0	24	1

State

Montana Department of Fish and Game

	Picnic Units	Camping Units	Swim-ming	Fish-ing	Boat Ramp
Absaroka FAS	0	0	0	X	0
Arapooish	0	0	0	0	0
Beaver Lodge FAS	0	0	0	X	0
Big Horn River FAS	0	0	0	X	0
Big Rock	0	0	0	0	0
Blue Water FAS	6	0	0	X	0
Braatan FAS	0	0	0	X	0
Buffalo Jump FAS	5	0	0	X	0
Bull Springs FAS	4	0	0	X	0
Castle Rock FAS	6	6	0	X	0
Chief Plenty Coups State Monument	38	0	0	0	0
Cliff Swallow FAS	0	4	0	X	0
Cooney Reservoir Recreation Area	80	0	X	X	X
Fireman's Point FAS	2	6	0	X	0
Grey Bear FAS	4	10	0	X	0
Horse Thief Station FAS	6	0	0	X	0

	Picnic Units	Camping Units	Swimming	Fishing	Boat Ramp
Indian Fort FAS	6	15	0	X	X
Itch-Ke-Pe FAS	9	15	0	X	X
Morain FAS	0	0	0	X	0
Pictograph Cave State Monument	3	0	0	0	0
Rosebud Isle FAS	0	0	0	X	0
Swinging Bridge FAS	0	0	0	X	0
Two Leggin FAS	0	0	0	X	0
Water Birch FAS	15	15	0	X	0
White Bird FAS	10	10	0	X	0
Total	194	87	1	21	3
Indian Reservations					
Crow Agency	5	10	0	X	0
Ok-A-Beh	5	10	0	X	0
Spear Siding	5	10	0	X	0
Total	15	30	0	3	0
Total Selected Facilities, Region 7	265	458	1	50	6

MAJOR RECREATIONAL RESOURCES

Beartooth Primitive Area

The outstanding recreational resource of the region is the 230,000 acre Beartooth Primitive Area located in both the Custer and Gallatin National Forests. The area is destined to become the Beartooth Wilderness Area upon Congressional designation, and it will be enlarged in size.

Designation as a wilderness will mean retaining the resource in its natural state, excluding all development or activity which would tend to detract from those conditions. Outdoor pursuits will take on the nature of a challenge, although there will still be an activity available to persons of capability. Wilderness status means, for the recreationist, using the resource on its own terms, thus there will be no facility development.

Where trails will be acceptable in the wilderness, they will be meandering in nature, and planned to provide the visitor with a sense of isolation from other users. While existing trails would be generally retained, they would not be maintained in accord with past practices. Vast interior areas without trails will continue as a major attraction. For the very skilled, mountain climbing in the Beartooths is outstanding.

Management for wilderness implies a carrying capacity concept for the resource, with recreation permitted only in accord with this basis. Overnight camping would be permitted to the degree that it does not deteriorate a given site or have an affect upon the quality of the water. Controlled hunting and fishing would be allowed. No introduced species of fish would be permitted.

The recreational attractions are the pristine natural resources, including majestic peaks such as Granite, Montana's highest mountain with an elevation of 12,799 feet. The area has numerous glaciers, including some noted for the grasshoppers preserved in an environment of centuries old ice formations. There are numerous waterfalls and over 300 lakes only three of which can be reached by automobile, namely, East and West Rosebud and Emerald. Many of the lakes are virtually untouched by man although they are lightly fished and camping takes place nearby. Alpine meadows dot the high country and are a noted attraction. Wildlife in this unspoiled and natural habitat is especially appreciated and prominent among these are the bighorn sheep, the goats, deer, moose and bear.

Back Country

The Beartooth country is relatively accessible by trails from roads which lead to the area at several locations. Trails lead into this area from the headwaters of the Stillwater River, the East Rosebud River and the West Rosebud River and from Red

Lodge Creek and Rock Creek. Visitors to the primitive areas use the campgrounds in the back country areas adjoining as a primary base for their explorations. The communities of Absarokee, Red Lodge and Cooke City also serve as a base and a considerable amount of day use activity is possible in the Beartooths with relatively short travel distances.

The portion of the Custer Forest adjoining the primitive area and commonly referred to as the back country area, provide by comparison, a relatively more developed type of recreation facilitiy. Here the visitor will find developed campgrounds, sanitary facilities, trails, signs, interpretive devices as well as corrals for the pack horses, all of which are to be eliminated from the wilderness. The area is essentially roadless, and travel in the back country is limited to trails of various types.

The Forest Service is currently engaged in a multiple-use planning study for the area and final plans for the region will not be completed until some time into the future. The West Fork is noted for the fishing quality and there this activity will probably receive the highest priority in planning. The East Fork contains more of the outstanding scenery and development; therefore, it is expected to be appropriate to that feature of the resource. At the present time, more than 80% of the visitors to the East Fork indicate that their primary reason is the viewing of the dramatic scenery. In general, the Rock Creek area is likely to contain more of the developments for camping for both families and for youth groups such as scouts, church and other organizations. This drainage would also provide for the larger concentrations of the overnight camping which visitors would use as a base while exploring the less roaded areas and the wilderness. The steep canyon walls limit development to the relatively small level areas on the canyon floor.

Outdoor recreation for youth and for the handicapped has been given considerable study by the Forest Service. While facilities do exist for some youth camping groups, it is recognized that there is extensive opportunity in the forest for these activities which is currently untapped. Present facilities have in some cases deteriorated due to age and are in need of replacement. A design concept currently undergoing consideration involves a multiple use facility for various groups. A central utility and food service unit would serve various component groups such as the blind, the retarded children, handicapped adults or others, all of which could be using separate but related units of the entire facility. In addition to serving the less capable recreationist, the camps would also be used as centers for educational efforts in regard to environmental matters for a wide variety of groups. It is estimated that this concept would result in considerable savings and would be a more efficient operation overall. Three such pilot programs for special facilities have been proposed throughout the nation.

The rugged terrain provides a number of well defined plateaus, among them the Line Creek, Stillwater, East Rosebud, Fishtail, Silver Run, Red Lodge Creek and the Hell Roaring plateau. The latter, Hell Roaring, is somewhat more accessible to the public and consequently the area will receive consideration in making it available to recreationists. Lakes and alpine meadows will draw the hiker and it is anticipated that the entire plateau could be explored by the more capable of the visitors.

The Beartooth highway will receive further attention for the benefit of the traveler and those not capable of vigorous activity. Interpretive programs will be increased, bringing knowledge of the area to many who otherwise would not have the time or opportunity to enjoy that aspect of the back country.

Pryor Mountains Area

Multiple Use Planning Studies are currently underway for the Pryor Mountains Unit, Custer Forest, with preliminary results anticipated in 1973 - 1974.

The Pryor Mountains, lying only forty miles or so easterly of the Beartooth, have a decidedly different character and consequently the recreation attractions and opportunity will differ also. There is somewhat less rainfall, and the mountains are set apart physically from the extensive ranges to the west and southwest. The Pryors are closely adjoined but not contiguous to the Big Horn Canyon National Recreation Area and the future use of either of these resources will be linked to and will have an affect upon the other. As development proceeds in the national recreation area, the visitation and pressures can be expected to make themselves felt on this unique mountain range.

While recreational plans have not been completed, consideration is being given to the following aspects. The region abounds in the archeological evidence of primitive man and recent Indian cultures, and careful evaluation of these features will precede recreational use. The Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management are currently studying these features throughout the range. These mountains afford excellent views over extensive range lands and an especially interesting panorama of the Big Horn Canyon Recreation Area. The clear air and the elevation of the Pryors result in vistas of unusual dimensions.

Other features of exceptional interest are the fossil remains created by sedimentary deposits when eastern Montana was submerged in the seas nearly 100 million years ago. These reminders of other geologic eras are found in the limestone cliffs today and will be a focal point of the interpretive programs of the future.

Fishing is of minor importance although some trout are found in Crooked Creek, a spectacular and scenic small canyon. Other small streams contain only a limited fishery.

The mountains are an important deer winter range. Mule deer, mountain sheep and elk are found here in relative abundance. The noted wild horse range is located in the pryor mountains and on the BLM lands adjoining. Considerable visitor interest and public attention attaches to these now famous animals.

Hunting is a significant activity here. The jeep trails used by hunters are numerous and management of vehicular use is a problem needing further resolution, and closures are imminent. The mountains are also an important livestock grazing resource, requiring further coordination between the ranching industry, the recreationist and the Forest Service.

Bird life is plentiful, and while many species are protected, there is hunting for grouse and some partridge. Eagles inhabit the area and are a special point of interest as they navigate the powerful air currents of the upslopes and canyons.

The mountains have a number of ice caves, two of them rather large and of special attraction. The affect of human visitation upon these delicately balanced environmental conditions is being monitored as a part of the preliminary planning for their inclusion in the interpretive programs.

Altogether, the prospects for recreational use indicate that the permissible activities will be simple in nature and will center around the appreciation of the wildlife and the solitude and the grandeur unique to that resource. Development will be very limited and road access will in the forseeable future be minor. Current access on the gumbo roads is a very limiting factor in periods of wet weather.

YELLOWSTONE RIVER

The Yellowstone River, designated as a state recreational waterway, has an extensive fishery and one of enormous variety. That portion of the river flowing through this region, from western Sweet Grass County to eastern Yellowstone County, likewise has a great variety and a high quality of fishing. The major portion of the regional segment has a high water quality with, however, an increasingly silty condition easterly of Billings.

The river is increasingly popular for floating and the trip offers a great variety of scenery as it flows through the region. The river valley itself is an attractive contrast in scenery to the mountains, the foothill grazing lands and the eastern plains. Mature cottonwood stands are prominent and are a recreational attraction.

In Sweet Grass and Stillwater Counties the river still retains much of its water quality that originates in Yellowstone Park and consequently the cutthroat, rainbow and brown trout are prized, with many outstanding specimens having been taken. The numerous tributaries of the river in this region, with their headwaters in the Beartooth mountains are likewise noted fisheries. The Stillwater, with its braided network of streams including the Fishtail and West and East Rosebud is a main attraction and is consequently approaching its upper limit in capacity for anglers.

In recognition of the quality of and demand for fishing, the Fish and Game Department has developed fishing access sites on the Yellowstone, namely the Grey Bear, Indian Fort, Itch-Kep-E, and on the Stillwater, Buffalo Jump, Castle Rock and Moraine, Cliff Swallow, Absaroka, White Bird, Swinging Bridge and Fireman's Point. On Rock Creek the department has established Horsethief Station, Beaver Lodge, Bull Springs and Water Birch. These sites provide limited development for camping and picnicking as well as the opportunity for access to the water. It is planned that these sites will continue to be simple areas of limited development with only minor enhancement and little expansion of capacity. In deference to public demand, the department will continue to acquire sites where circumstances permit, both to provide the semi-isolation the fisherman seeks and to prevent undue damage to a given recreation site. As with many other mountain and foothill areas, the limiting factor will be development on a flood plain in an area where the maintenance of water quality is the prime consideration.

Below Billings the Yellowstone is a much different river, biologically speaking, and the warmer waters provide such species as sauger ling and channel catfish as well as a few brown trout where the water quality is good. Goldeye also provide recreation fishing. Near Billings and in an easterly direction, the river assumes more importance as a potential for recreation other than fishing. The Yellowstone Valley has very high summer temperatures over an extended period of time and relief from the heat is sought by the residents. While the weekends offer a retreat to the mountains, the intensified use and travel considerations make locations closer to the city of Billings and other communities a major consideration. The presence of water and the adjoining woodlands are recreational attractions, further intensified by the increasing pressures on the scenic Beartooth Country. A recreation area of some extent, situated in a favorable location on the river, should be given consideration.

BIG HORN CANYON NATIONAL RECREATION AREA

The National Parks Service is engaged in the development of a unique recreation area in conjunction with the Big Horn Reservoir. The dam is at the mouth of the Big Horn Canyon and nearby is Fort Smith, an old cavalry outpost established to protect travelers on the Bozeman Trail.

Rugged, scenic beauty and the expanse of water in a semi-arid land are the major attractions for the area. Adjoining the reservoir is an area of large acreage encompassing scenic canyons and plateaus, limestone formations and the sparse stands of the hardy Ponderosa, altogether an attractive resource characteristic of the best of the region.

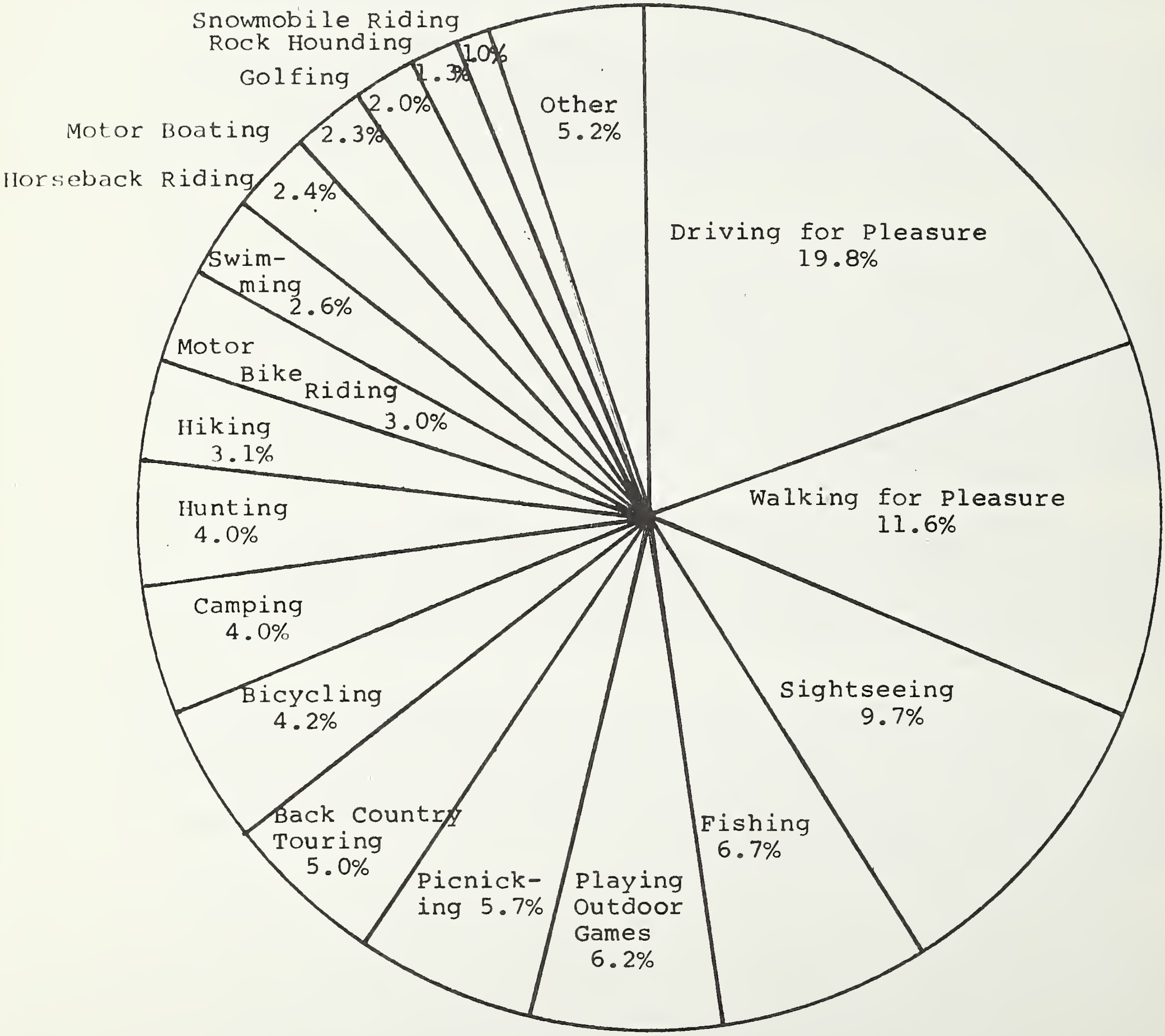
Recreational use of this noted area will consist of the boating and fishing on the reservoir, with associated camping and tours of the area. Boat tours through the spectacular canyon of the Big Horn are destined to be a major attraction. The geologic history of the river cutting its way through the soft limestone to form cliffs with heights of up to 2200 feet is as intriguing to the visitor as is the scenic quality of the narrow gorges with the multiple colors of the formations. Fossil remnants of the marine life of millions of years past are found in the limestone walls.

A visitor center at the site of the dam has a great potential for interpretation of the area and region. Marinas and related concession enterprises will provide much needed facilities for the visitors. Campgrounds are being developed to provide excellent accommodations for both the tent and trailer type of camping.

There are a number of significant archeological sites on the area. While some field work has been accomplished, considerable funding is needed to complete this important work. Protection of the sites as an initial step is perhaps more urgent at the present. After suitable protection, selected ones could be made available to the viewing public.

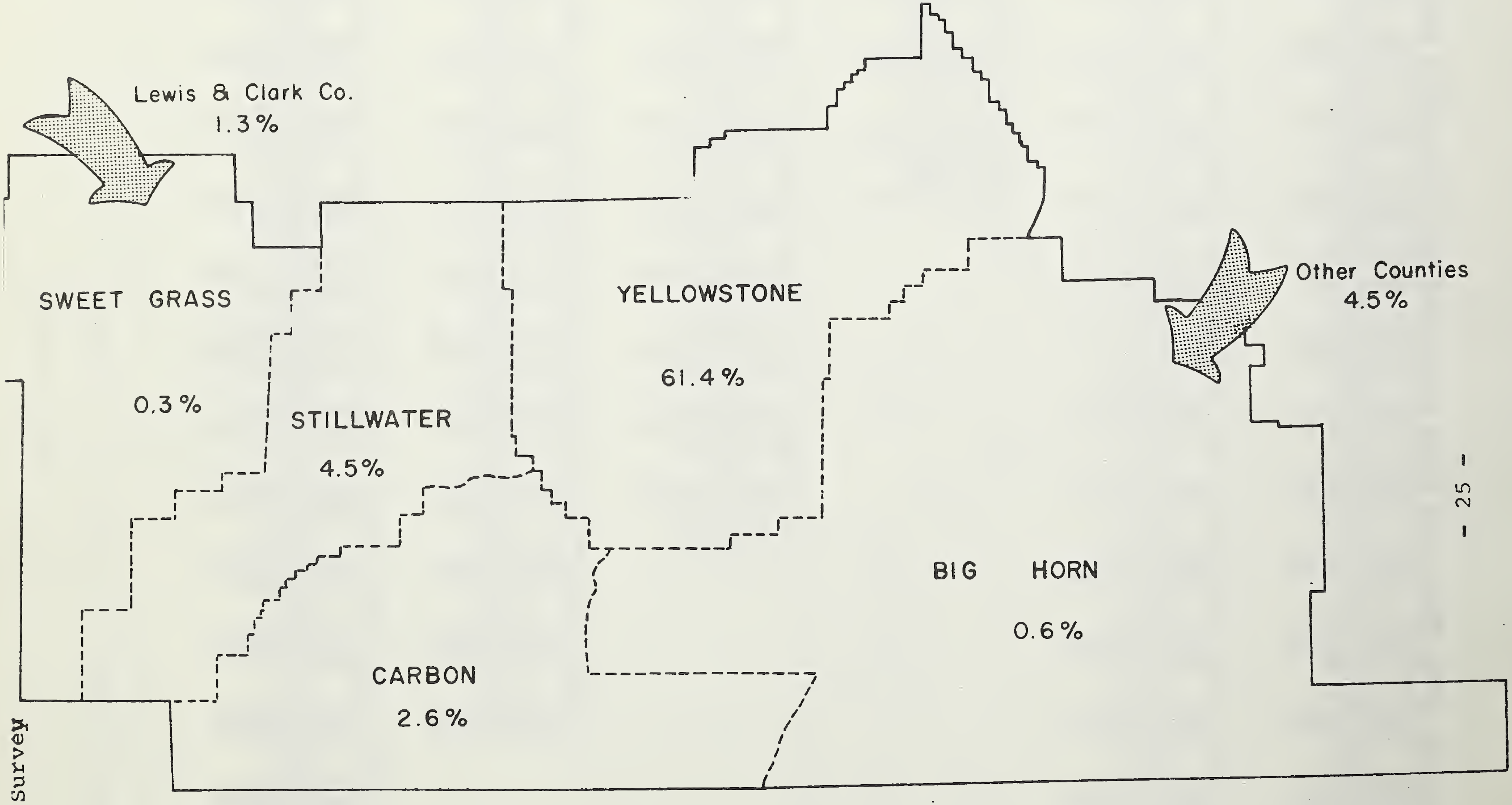
PLANNING REGION 7

Frequency of Participation in Selected Outdoor Recreation Activities by Montana Residents - Yearly Average



The above percentages represent an activity's portion of all recreation time.

ORIGIN OF PARTIES RECREATING IN PLANNING REGION 7


Lewis & Clark Co.
1.3%
SWEET GRASS
0.3%
STILLWATER
4.5%
YELLOWSTONE
61.4%
CARBON
2.6%
BIG HORN
0.6%
Other Counties
4.5%

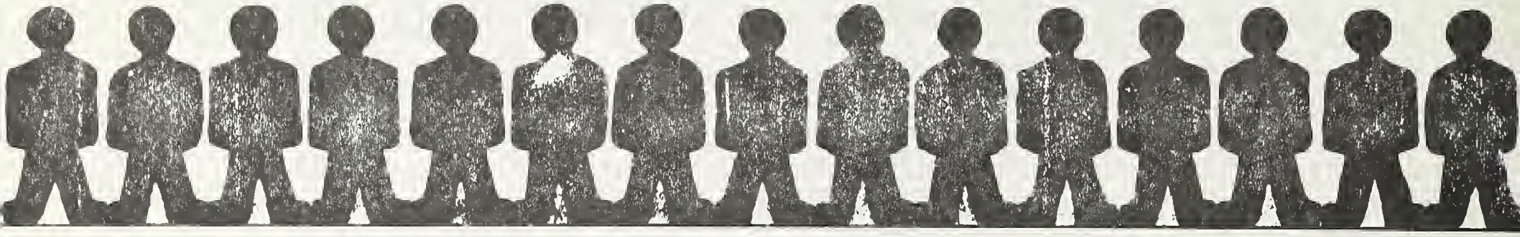
Out of State	24.8%
In State	75.2%

PLANNING REGION 7

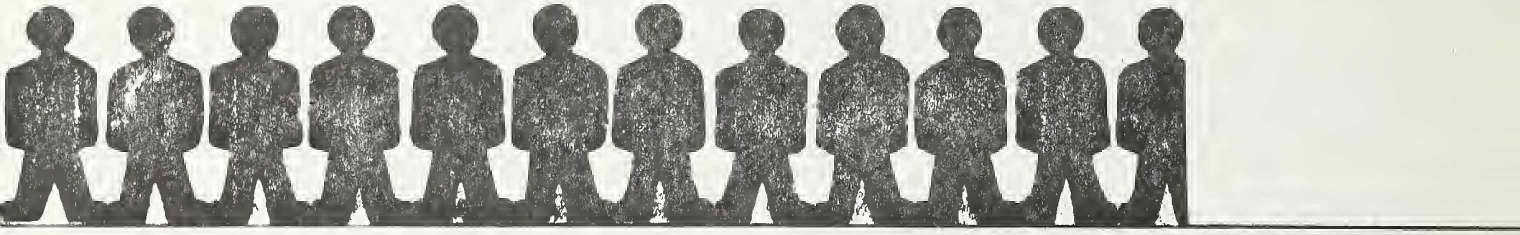
Leisure Time Activities Engaged in by Montana Residents - Yearly Average

Each man equals 5 responses

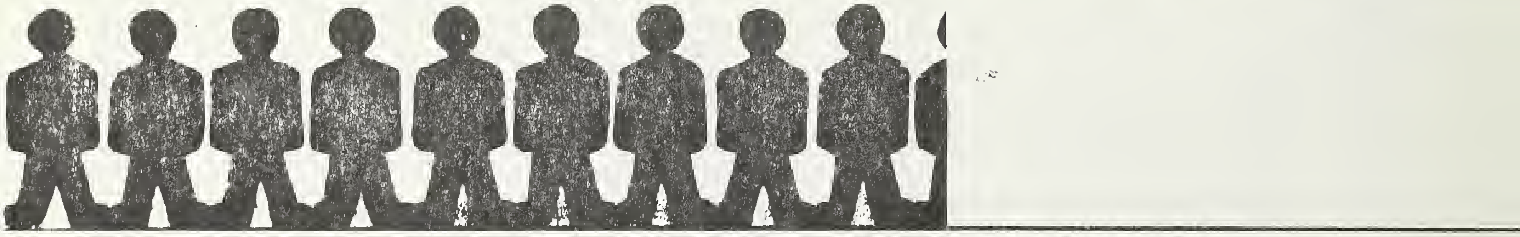
Indoor spectator activities (75.2)



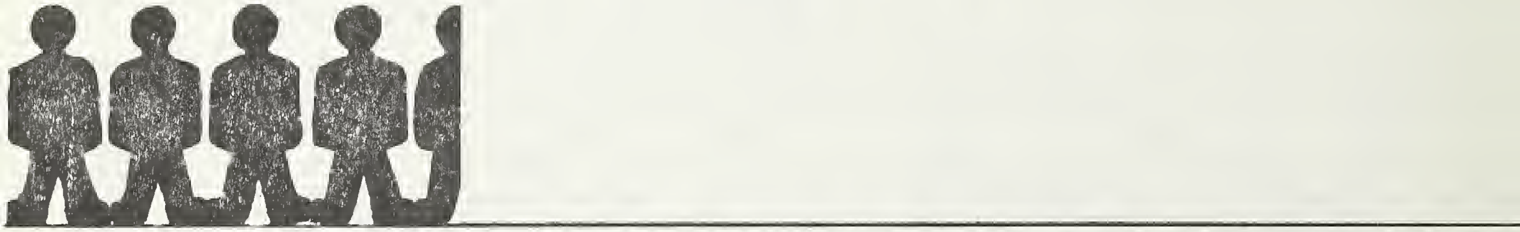
Social activities (59.1)



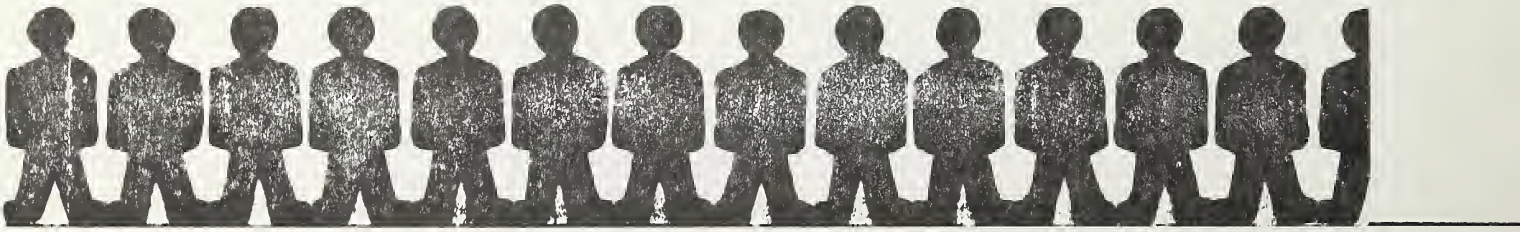
Indoor play activities (46.3)



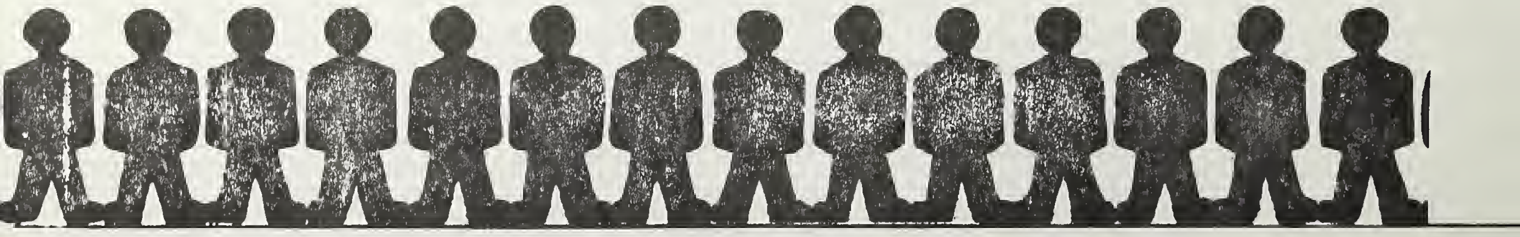
Self improvement activities (22.3)



Home related activities (67.5)



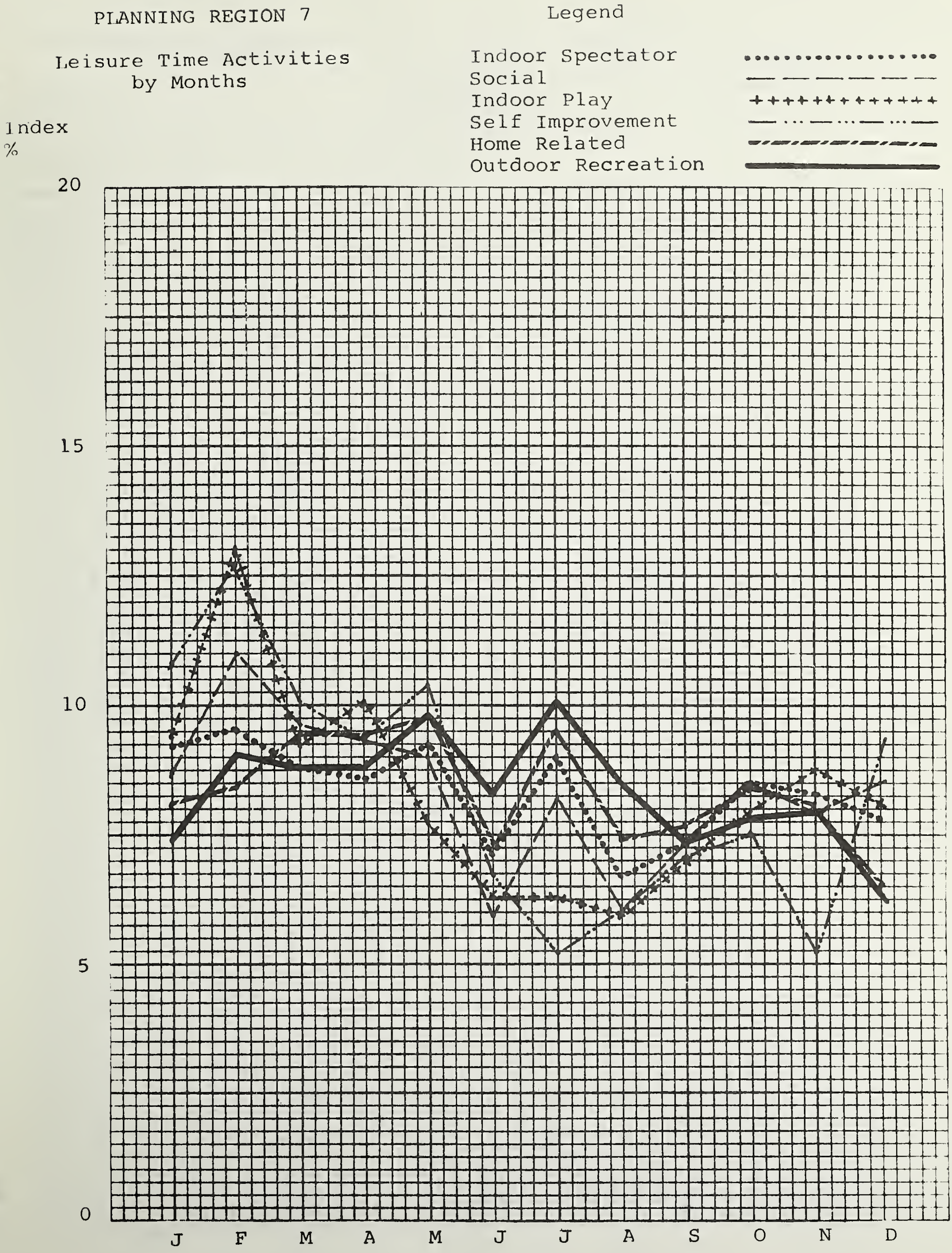
Outdoor recreation (70.9)



Above numbers indicate the average monthly responses from surveyed residents in the planning region.

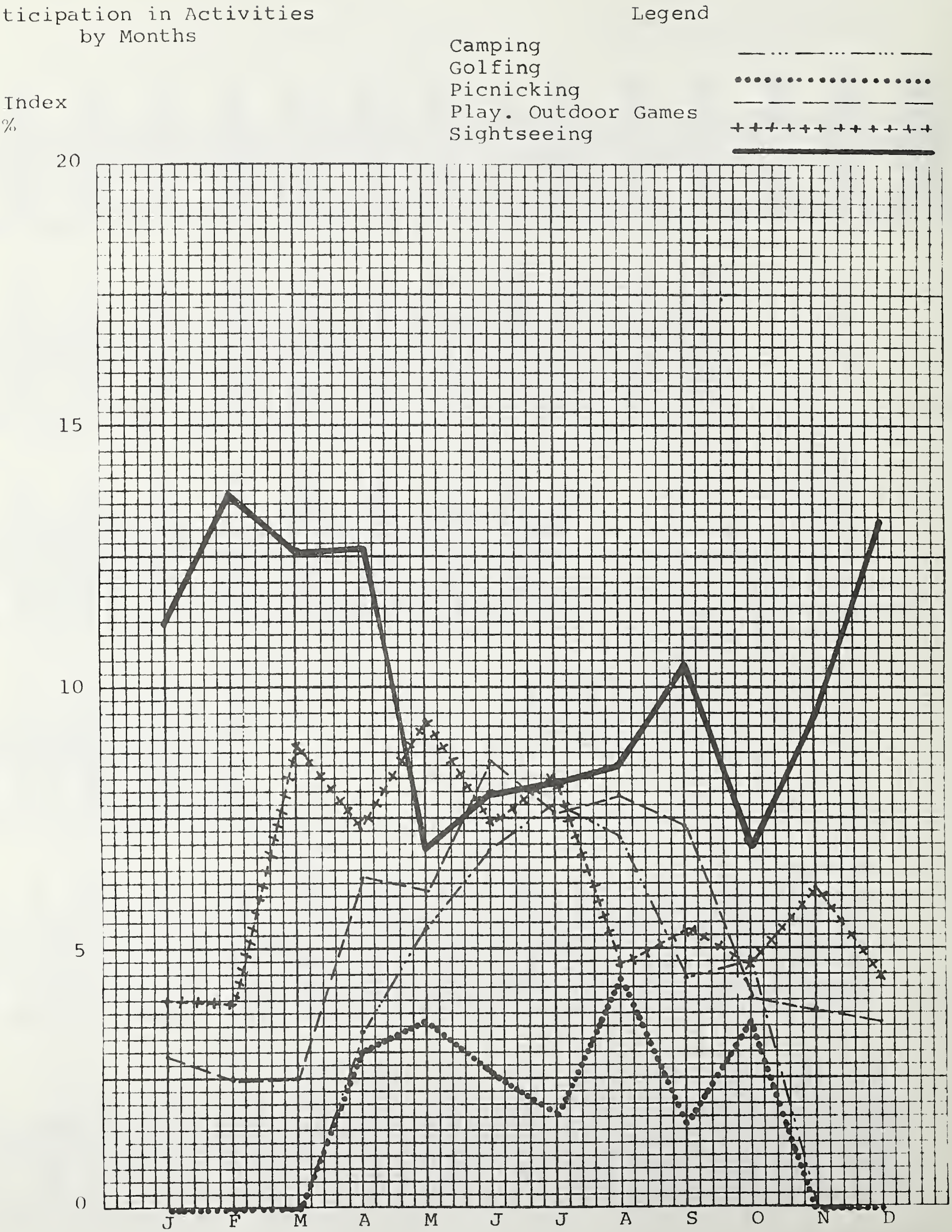
PLANNING REGION 7

Leisure Time Activities
by Months

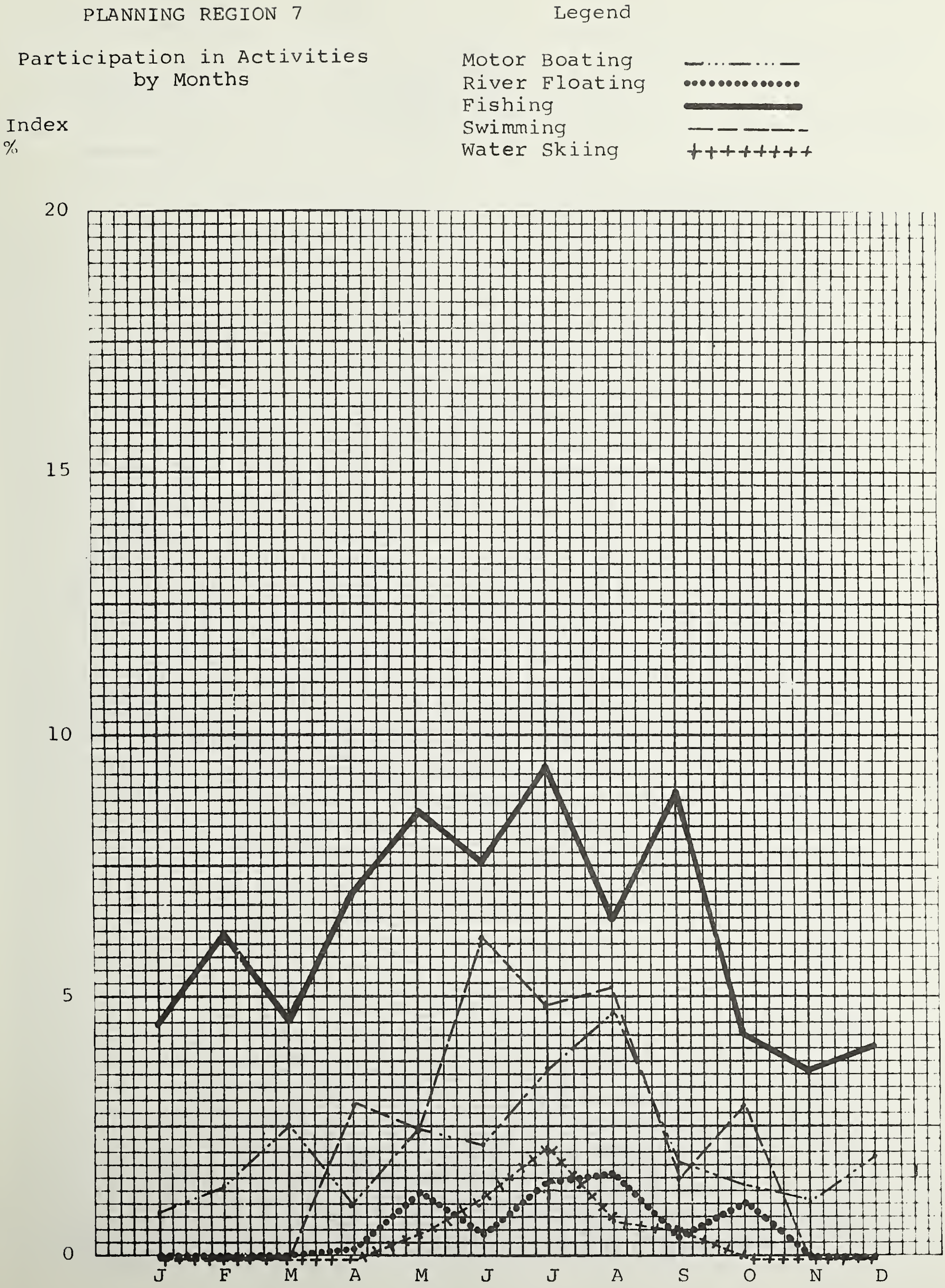


PLANNING REGION 7

Participation in Activities
by Months



Activities Concentrated in One Area



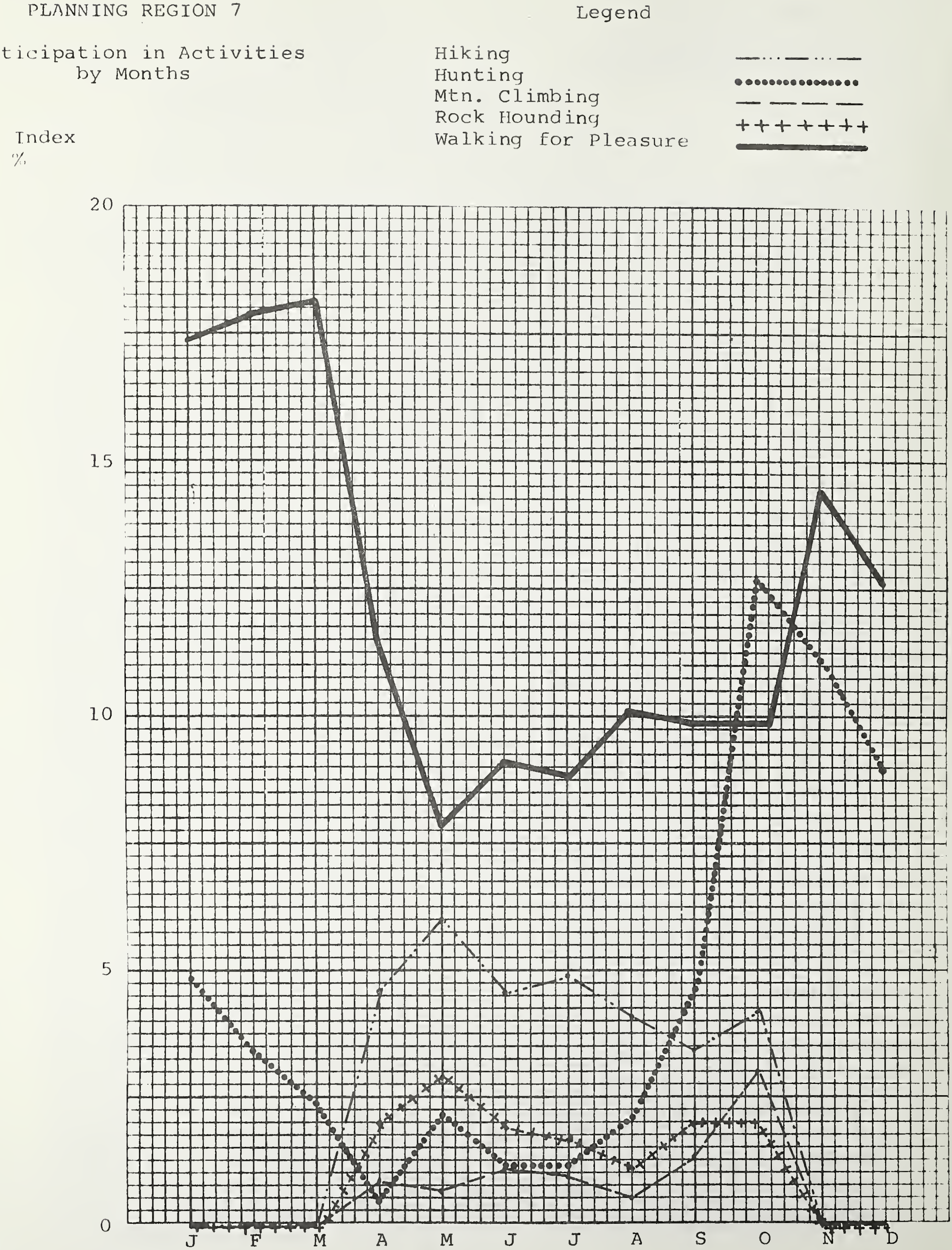
PLANNING REGION 7

Participation in Activities by Months

Water Oriented Activities

PLANNING REGION 7

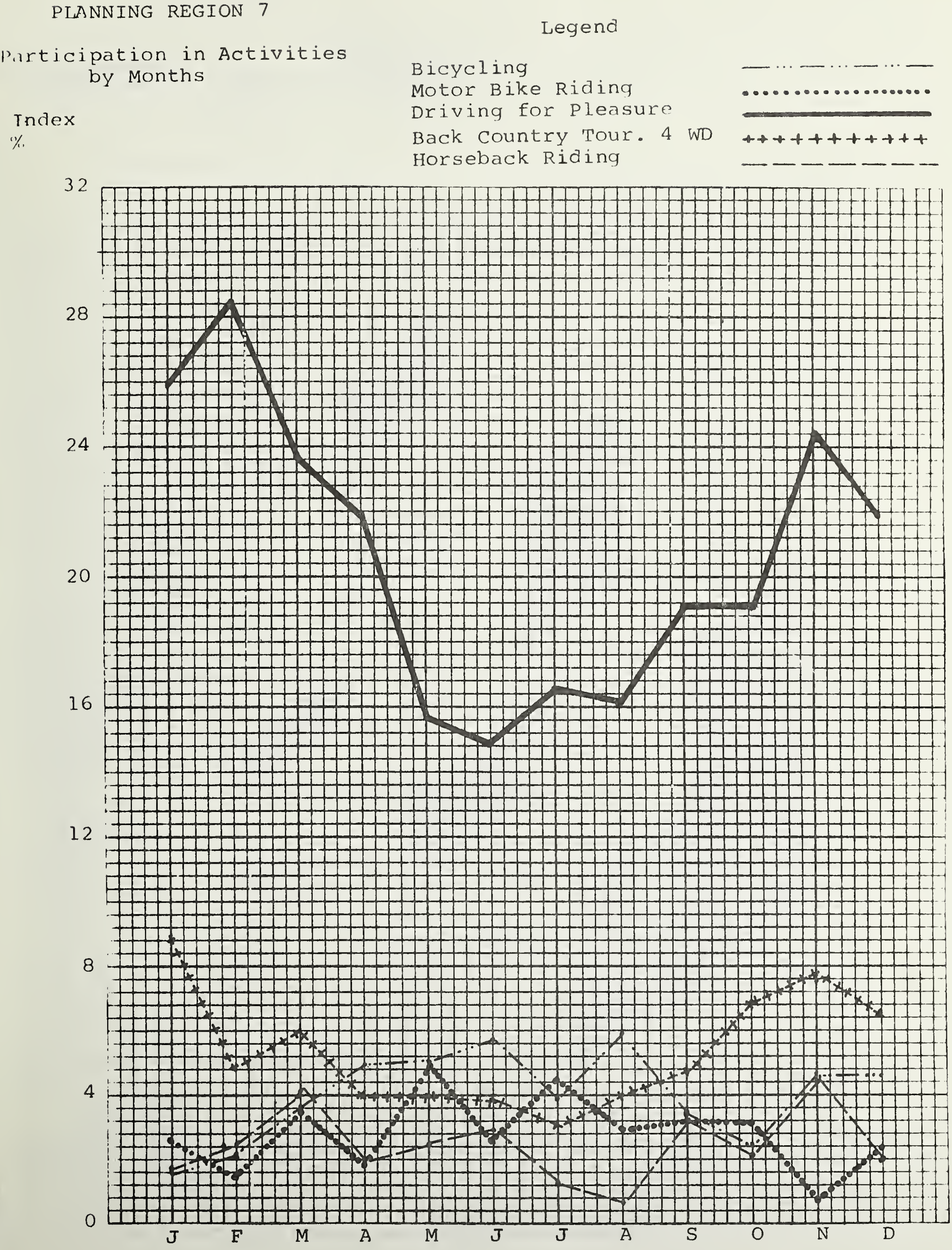
Participation in Activities
by Months



Traveling Activities with/without Vehicle

PLANNING REGION 7

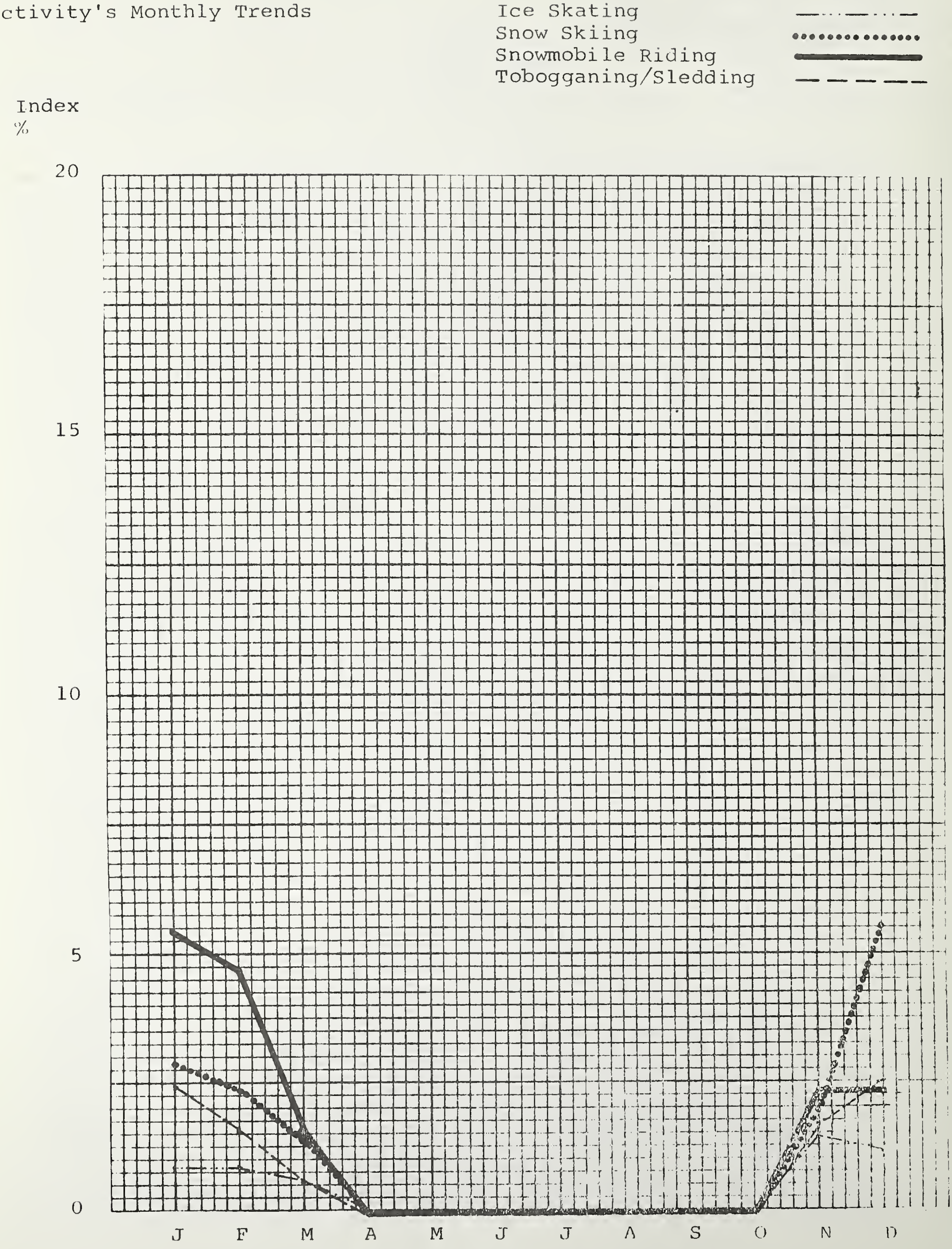
Participation in Activities by Months



Traveling Activities - Vehicle Needed

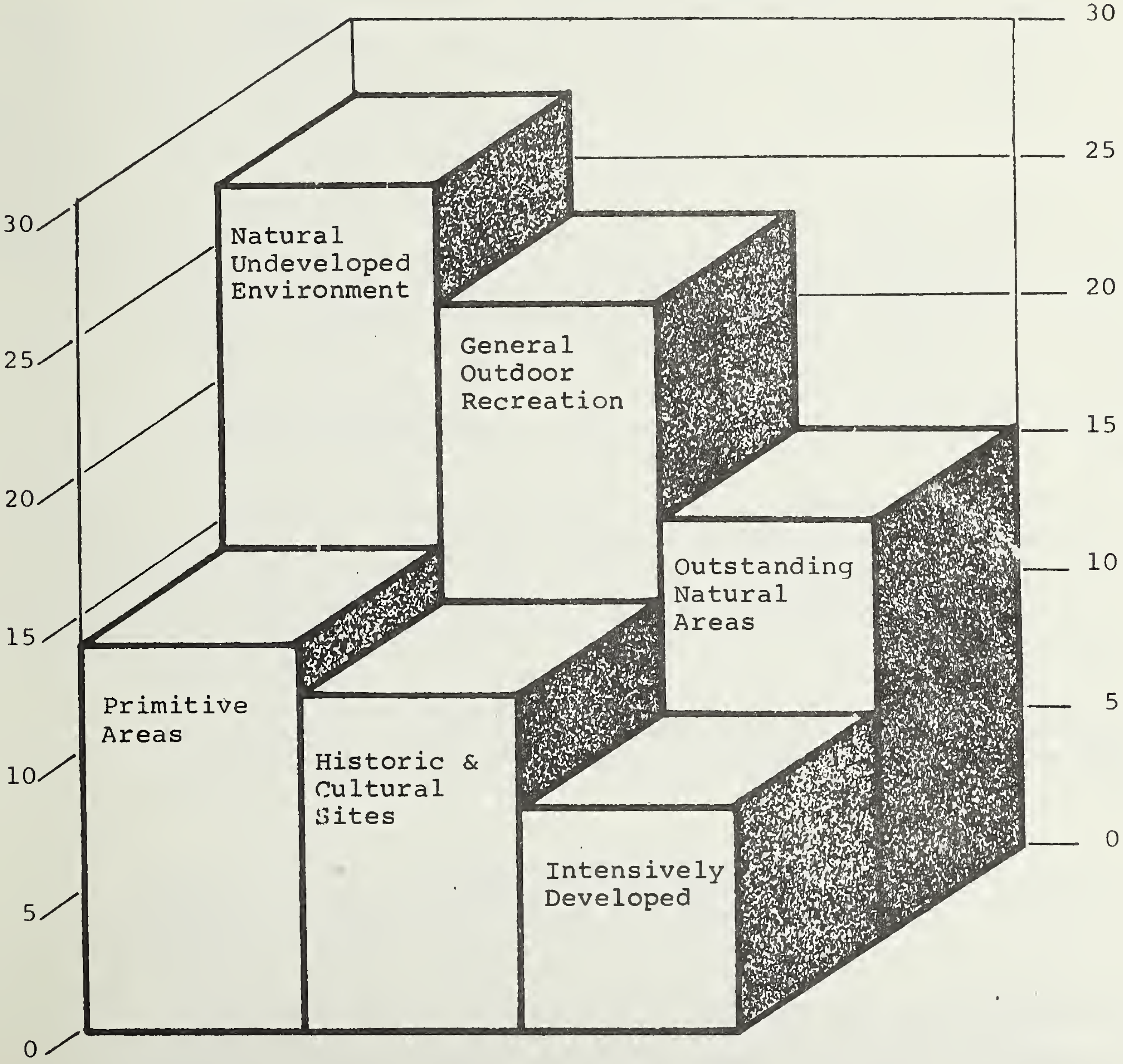
PLANNING REGION 7

Activity's Monthly Trends



PLANNING REGION 7

Preferences for Selected Types of Recreation Areas by Montana Residents
Yearly Totals



Numbers indicate a weighted percent based on the number of responses to first, second, and third preferences.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT RECREATION SUMMARY REGION 7

The following chart tabulates facilities available for recreation in the municipalities of Big Timber, Billings, Bridger and Columbus.

MUNICIPAL FACILITIES

MUNICIPALITIES	1970 POPULATION	1972 PARK ACREAGE	Golf	Swimming Pool	Tennis	Multi-Purpose Courts	Baseball or Softball	Football	Children's Playgrounds	Large All Purpose Playfields	Picnic Areas	Designated Bike Trails	Indoor Recreation Centers	Facilities for the Handicapped	Special Accommodations for the Handicapped
Big Timber	1,592	9		x	x	x	x		x	x	x		x		
	Facility Needs:		N									N		N	N
Billings	61,581	1200	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x				
	Facility Needs:		N		N		N		N	N	N	N			N
Bridger	717	6		x			x	x	x	x	x				
	Facility Needs:		N		N										
Columbus	1,173	105	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x				
	Facility Needs:											N			
	Facility Needs:														
	Facility Needs:														
	Facility Needs:														

Recreation and parks expenditures, which include money for maintenance operation, personnel, acquisition, and development are tabulated below:

MUNICIPAL EXPENDITURES

	F. Y. 1970	F. Y. 1971	F. Y. 1972
Big Timber	$ 11,945	$ 12,848	$ 13,000
Billings	N/A	N/A	400,000
Bridger	7,221	8,186	8,142
Columbus	6,000	10,390	5,884

N/A = information not available

LOCAL GOVERNMENT SURVEY SUMMARIES

Big Timber has increased its recreation opportunity by arranging for free use of the high school athletic field for the city recreation program, and use of the high school gym on inclement days. The city wishes the state to assist in preservation of Firemen's Island Park during construction of Interstate 90. The major problem for the Big Timber park and recreation system is seasonal staffing and management.

Billings has six hundred acres in their park system which are inside the city, and six hundred acres outside the city but within their planning area. An agreement in which the colleges and public school system may use the city park for such activities as track, tennis and cross-country has increased the recreation opportunity in Billings.

State assistance and legislation is needed to help finance the local matching share on B.O.R. projects, to enable local governments to contribute a smaller share. New and unusual requests for recreation services have included the use of one park for rock concerts and the use of motor cycles on park grounds where undesired.

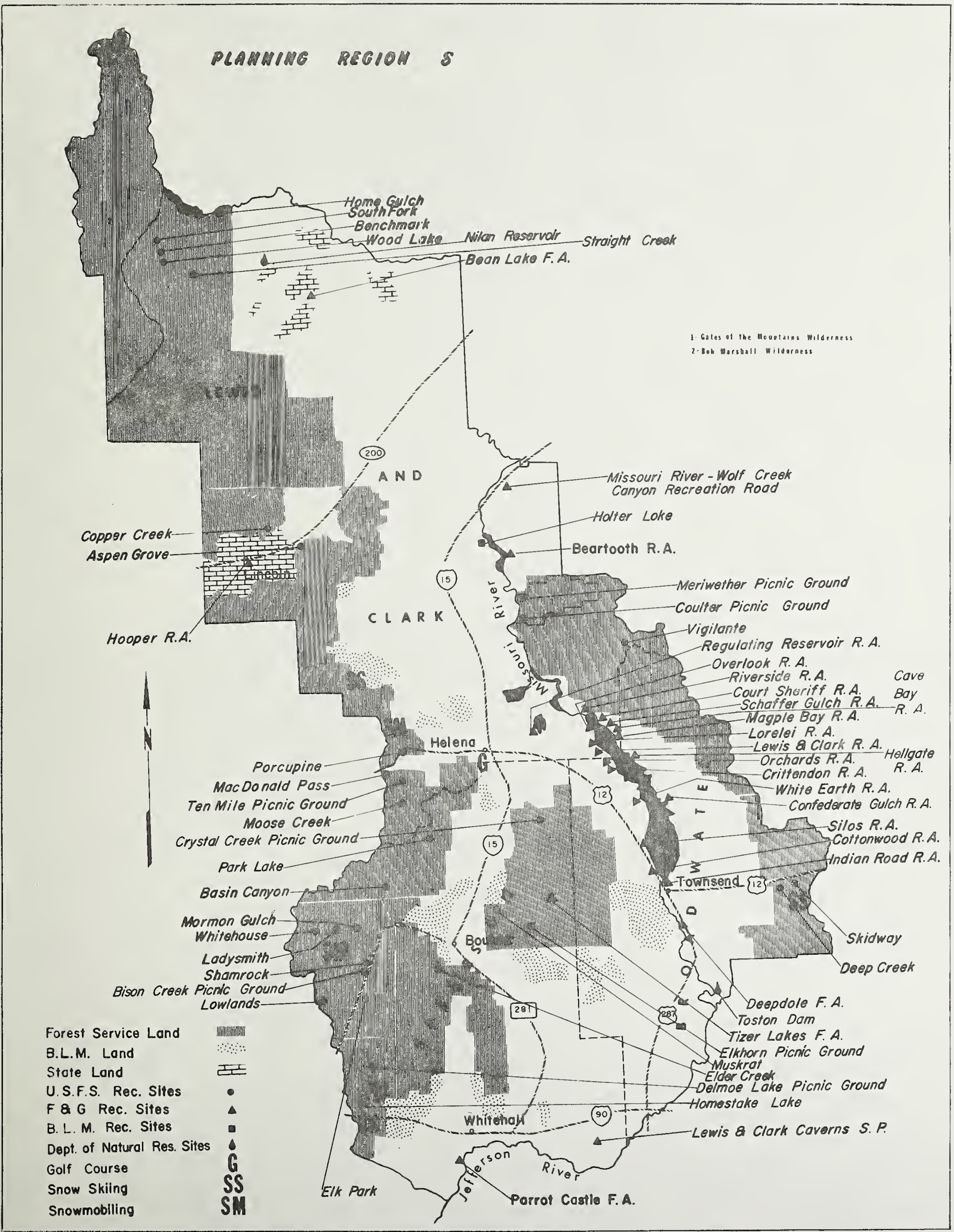
Billings considers as its major problems the lack of funding, vandalism in its parks, and the unavailability of reliable seasonal employees.

Bridger lists its number one priority as golf. The community has increased recreation opportunity by including overnight facilities for tourists in their park system. This includes water, sewer, toilet and shower facilities plus swimming. A lower tax base has decreased recreation development in Bridger. The community needs state financial assistance for land acquisition and development. Outright grant assistance would be desirable, in addition to long range financing programs. The major problems which the town faces are the lack of finances for an expanded program and for maintaining existing parks.

Columbus considers designated bicycle trails as the highest priority. School property has been made available for use as a winter skating rink without charge; and the Columbus Jaycees have donated playground equipment to the town and installed it at the park.

It was indicated a policy change is necessary regarding B.O.R. regulations governing the use of park land where B.O.R. funds are not going to be used after land has been acquired with Federal funds. The major problem for Columbus is raising funds to provide the recreational services.

PLANNING REGION 5


1- Gates of the Mountains Wilderness
2- Bob Marshall Wilderness
Home Gulch
South Fork
Benchmark
Wood Lake
Nilan Reservoir
Straight Creek
Bean Lake F. A.
LEWIS
AND
CLARK
200
Copper Creek
Aspen Grove
Lincoln
Hooper R.A.
Missouri River - Wolf Creek Canyon Recreation Road
Holter Lake
Beartooth R.A.
15
Missouri River
Meriwether Picnic Ground
Coulter Picnic Ground
Vigilante
Regulating Reservoir R. A.
Overlook R. A.
Riverside R. A.
Court Sheriff R. A.
Cave Bay R. A.
Schaffer Gulch R. A.
Magpie Bay R. A.
Lorelei R. A.
Lewis & Clark R. A.
Hellgate R. A.
Orchards R. A.
Crittendon R. A.
White Earth R. A.
Confederate Gulch R. A.
Silos R. A.
Cottonwood R. A.
Indian Road R. A.
Townsend
12
Skidway
Deep Creek
Deepdole F. A.
Toston Dam
Tizer Lakes F. A.
Elkhorn Picnic Ground
Muskrat
Elder Creek
Delmoe Lake Picnic Ground
Homestake Lake
Lewis & Clark Caverns S. P.
Parrot Castle F. A.
BROADWATER
Helena
G
Porcupine
MacDonald Pass
Ten Mile Picnic Ground
Moose Creek
Crystal Creek Picnic Ground
Park Lake
Basin Canyon
Mormon Gulch
Whitehouse
Ladysmith
Shamrock
Bison Creek Picnic Ground
Lowlands
Boulder
281
287
90
Whitehall
Jefferson River
Elk Park
N
Forest Service Land
B.L.M. Land
State Land
U.S.F.S. Rec. Sites ●
F & G Rec. Sites ▲
B. L. M. Rec. Sites ■
Dept. of Natural Res. Sites
Golf Course G
Snow Skiing SS
Snowmobiling SM

SUMMARY OF MAJOR RECREATION PROBLEMS

Region 8 has a wide variety of recreation resources at its disposal. There is a diversity of opportunity, ranging from access to three wilderness areas, the extensive areas of the Lewis and Clark, Helena and Deer Lodge Forests, three large reservoirs, and the Missouri River. Two ski areas are within easy reach and others are not too distant.

The region is uncrowded and the main population center of Helena is centrally located, placing the residents within easy travel distance of many areas and facilities. Unlike several other regions, there are developed recreation facilities relatively close to the cities and towns. Some additional developments at various points on the forests would broaden the opportunity, however, and will undoubtedly be much more in demand in the near future.

Because of Helena's central location, there is a great deal of day use activity. The necessity of overnight camping to enjoy the natural environment areas is lessened and residents can make day trips to given areas. While the forest provides ample areas of natural environment for day use, there is a need to designate some specific additional areas and to equip them with the sanitation facilities which would be needed. It is thus not the need for extensive development, but the identification of certain subregions of recreational attraction that is desirable. Helena sustains a considerable amount of summer visitation due to its capital city attractions, and the visit of the out-of-stater and the resident as well, would be enhanced.

While the extent is not known, it is assumed that there are many individuals in the Helena area who do not as yet benefit from the outdoor attractions of the region for one reason or another. The residents of the custodial institutions are no doubt in need of assistance to enjoy the natural areas which the remainder of the population takes for granted.

The popularity of Canyon Ferry Reservoir induces a degree of visitation that causes congestion at favored areas. While the water surface area is extensive, the surrounding area available for development does not, with some exception, provide much in the way of natural amenities. There is a need for further development at the reservoir to accommodate not only present but future use and plans are underway to achieve this. There is a need to provide developments at the reservoirs to enhance the passive recreation opportunity, particularly in reference to the needs of the handicapped and less capable and elderly centered in Helena.

The proximity of the population of Helena to the national forests indicates increasing dispersed day use, as well as dispersed overnight use, of the forests. In order to channel these visitations to the more desirable areas and to enhance the recreational experience, it would be desirable to develop a body of information to provide for this.

GEOGRAPHIC, POPULATION AND HISTORIC CHARACTERISTICS

Region 8, with a variety of attractions and features, is perhaps best known for its association with the state capital at Helena. The capital city in turn is well known for its association with the early mining industry and the well preserved buildings of nearly a century ago. The historic capital, situated between the two national parks and on a major east-west travel route, has become something of a crossroads as the thousands of summer visitors testify. The combined attractions of an outstanding museum, the paintings of a famous artist, Charles Russell, and the historic urban architecture in a setting of mountains and forests generate considerable interest and travel to the region.

Located in the west central portion of the state, the region is generally mountainous. Orientation of the mountain ranges is generally in a north-south direction. Most of the primary mountain ranges of the area were formed by the geologic process of block-thrusting, or igneous intrusion, and include the Belt Mountains, the Elkhorn Mountains, the Helena Mountains and the Blackfoot Range. Interspersed among the mountains are nearly level valleys, many of which were ancient lake beds. The more important ones of the region are the Helena Valley and the Missouri River Valley. Minor mountain glaciation occurred during the last glacial age but glaciated features are not as noticeable as in other areas of the state.

The natural vegetation in the valleys of the region, where not cultivated, consists primarily of foothill grassland and sagebrush. Some undifferentiated grassland including wheat grass, grama grass, and needle grass occurs in the valleys in the south part of Region 8. Deciduous trees, mostly cottonwoods and willows line the moist areas of the Missouri River and other streams of the area. Moving into the mountains, aspen and other conifers are encountered. In the mountains of the region, there is a considerable amount of Ponderosa pine at the lower elevations. Moving higher, the Montane forest of Douglas fir and spruce prevails, and eventually gives way to the pure lodgepole pine stands especially in the mountains in the western portion of the region. Relatively little alpine non-commerical forest or alpine meadow exists in Region 8.

Water resources in Region 8 are fairly abundant with the Missouri River and its reservoirs predominating. The largest reservoir on the Missouri is Canyon Ferry; others are Holter Lake, Hauser Lake and nearby Lake Helena. The Sun River borders the region on the north with its Gibson Reservoir. The Dearborn River in the north, the Boulder River in the South, the Jefferson River which forms part of the southern boundary of the region, and the headwaters of the Blackfoot on the west side of the Continental Divide are the other major rivers in Region 8.

The climate in this region is somewhat transitional with much of the weather pattern which occurs west of the Continental Divide felt here. Yet, effects of the weather pattern of the central and east part of the state are also evident in Region 8. Spring rains accompanying thunderstorms from the south and east, occasional cold air masses from the northern plains, storms from the coast, and less severe temperatures as occur west of the divide all influence the climate of this area. Chinooks are also experienced in this region and temperatures are not as extreme as in the eastern part of Montana.

The population in Region 8 is 41,045 according to the 1970 official census. County totals are indicated below.

REGION 8 POPULATION DISTRIBUTION

County		Persons
Broadwater		2,526
Jefferson		5,238
Lewis & Clark		33,281
	Region Total	41,045

The greater amount of the population is concentrated in the Helena area while much lesser concentrations occur at Townsend and Boulder. The population of Helena is 22,730; East Helena 1,651; Townsend 1,371; and Boulder 1,342. In Region 8, 55.6% or 22,730 persons live in an urban area, that is in Helena. The Indian minority group population is not significant in this region. Except for Broadwater County which has lost 10% of its population since 1960. Region 8 has gained population in this period, with Jefferson County gaining 22% and Lewis and Clark County gaining 19%.

Region 8 is served by rail, air transportation with a major airport at Helena, and highways with Interstate 15 traversing north and south through Helena and Boulder, and U. S. 12 passing east and west through Helena and Townsend.

The region's economy centers on two major industries: agriculture, including grain crops and livestock, and forestry with U. S. Forest Service land providing most of the timber for the industry. Timber is taken off the Helena, Lewis and Clark and Deer Lodge National forests. Because the state capital is located at Helena, a large number of public employees are engaged in government work in this region.

Public land in Region 8 accounts for a high proportion of all land in the region. The following table indicates the percentage of federal land in each county in Region 8.

PUBLIC LAND IN REGION 8

County	Percentage	Square Miles
Broadwater	34.6	432
Jefferson	56.7	934
Lewis & Clark	55.8	1950
	51.8	3316

*Does not include local government land.

The public land holdings in this region are administered as follows:

PUBLIC LAND ADMINISTRATION REGION 8

Agency	Land (Acres)
Federal	
U. S. Forest Service	1,634,241
Bureau of Land Management	226,848
Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife	5,744
U. S. Air Force	1,373
Total	1,868,206
State	
Department of State Lands (Not including State Forests)	163,047
Montana Fish and Game Department	61,125
Office of the State Forester	27,488
Total	251,660
Indian Reservation Land	0
Local	
Community parks (Helena, Whitehall)	570

Regional Points of Interest

Gates of the Mountains

This area of sheer 1000 foot cliffs along the Missouri River was discovered by Lewis and Clark in 1805. Boat trips, fishing, and other water sports are available in this area which abounds with a variety of wildlife.

Helena
At Last Chance Gulch in Helena, gold was discovered in 1864. Helena became the third Territorial Capital and is the present state capital. The state Historical Society & Museum, Carroll College and the Veterans Hospital are also located here.

Lewis & Clark Caverns State Park
Located in the southern part of Region 8, this is one of the nation's largest limestone caverns with a plethora of interesting formations.

Canyon Ferry Reservoir
The largest body of water in this part of Montana offers a wide variety of recreation activities and a pleasant environment.

Historic Sites

Much of the history in this region was concerned with mining, ranching, commerce, politics and society of early Montana. Confederate Gulch, Elkhorn, Montana City, Wickes, Marysville and Last Chance Gulch (Helena) were all sites of substantial gold or silver strikes. Many fortunes were made in mining and other supporting activities, and many of the more prominent men of the era in Montana chose Helena as their place of residence.

Helena was made the third Territorial Capital in 1875 and when Montana became a state in 1889 it remained as the state capital. The men who developed the state such as Hauser, Power, Cruse, Sanders, Broadwater and others were Helena residents and transacted their business here. Many important buildings of architectural interest are located in Helena and preserve the historic atmosphere. The Former Executive Mansion and the Kluge House are also historic sites of note which are on the National Register of Historic Places.

Below is a summary chart listing the major historic sites in Region 8.

HISTORIC SITES IN REGION 8

Historic Site	County	Significant Date	Significance
Confederate Gulch	Broadwater	1864	Industry
Rankin Ranch	Broadwater	1916	Political
Brooke's Log State Station	Jefferson	1870's	Architecture
Child Ranch	Jefferson	1888	Agriculture
Elkhorn	Jefferson	1880	Industry
Fraternity Hall at Elkhorn	Jefferson	1880's	Architecture
MacHaffie site	Jefferson	early prehist.	Prehist.-aborig
Montana City	Jefferson	1862	Industry
Whitehall State Station	Jefferson	1864	Architecture

Historic Site	County	Significant Date	Significance
Wickes	Jefferson	1870's	Industry
Benton Avenue Cemetery	Lewis & Clark	1880's	Commerce
Broadwater Hotel & Spa	"	1890's	Arch./Recreation
Former Executive Mansion NR	"	1884	Arch./Political
Fort (W.H.) Harrison	"	1892	Military
Kluge House NR	"	1880's	Architecture
Montana Historical Society	"	1865	Education
Helena Historic District NR	"	1864	Commerce-Mining-Political-Architecture
Gates of the Mountains	"	1805	Exploration
Marysville	"	1876	Industry

NR = Site listed on the National Register of Historic Places

CHARACTERISTICS OF RECREATION USE

Leisure Time in Region 8

Outdoor recreation for residents of Region 8 ranked a close second to participation to indoor spectator activities. Home-related activities were ranked third by residents of this region and social activities were ranked fourth. Outdoor recreation was engaged in most frequently in April and June; least frequently in December. During the twelve-month period, the greatest amount of leisure time available for residents of Region 8 was indicated for April and October, whereas the least amount was available in December.

Outdoor recreation reached its yearly peak in the spring, but at this time was exceeded in popularity by home-related activities and self-improvement activities. The time of the year when outdoor recreation activities exceeded all others in popularity was in the summer. Most other leisure time activities exceeded outdoor recreation in the fall. Self-improvement activities had the greatest variation in popularity throughout the year reaching a high in April and a low in June.

(For a more complete graphic account see Appendix.)

The Characteristics and Viewpoints of the Park User in Region 8

Residents of Montana were the predominant users of recreation facilities in Region 8 by 3 to 1. Of the 75% who were residents of Montana 21% originated in Lewis and Clark County within Region 8, 12% originated in Cascade County, 10% in Silverbow County and 16% in other counties near to Region 8, indicating a high percentage of use by people from out of Region 8. Fully half of those recreationists originating in Lewis & Clark County remain in Region 8 to recreate. Significant family use was indicated as the most prevalent party size encountered in the survey was four persons.

Regarding the length of stay by recreationists at sites in Region 8, it was found that day use visits were about equal to overnight and more lengthy stays. Recreationists using these facilities chose their recreation site most often because it was a place in which they could engage in a desired recreation activity. A full 67% chose a site for that reason. The second most prevalent reason given for choosing a recreation area in Region 8 was because of the natural beauty surrounding the area. Facility conditions in Region 8 were generally rated on a par or slightly below the state average. Although environmental factors were generally rated on a par with the state average, convenient access to recreation areas is one factor which fell below the state average. Even though natural beauty was given as the second most prevalent reason for choosing a recreation area, it too rated somewhat below the state average. 39% of all those respondents surveyed indicated a need for additional recreation facilities or activities at selected recreation areas in the region.

Water sports rated higher popularity among recreation users in Region 8 than in any other region. Fishing, swimming, and boating were the third, fourth and fifth most popular recreation activities for the user in terms of participation. Sixty-four percent of all those recreating engaged in fishing, 45% in swimming, and 42% in boating. The two top activities according to the user in Region 8 were resting and relaxing first, and camping second. When it came to stated preferences, resting and relaxing and camping dropped slightly while fishing assumed top place and water skiing moved into the top five activities preferred. Boating also dropped slightly.

Implications

1. Since day use visits approximately equal overnight and lengthy stays, facilities to accommodate these types of use might be provided on approximately an equal basis. Family recreation also plays an important part and should be noted.

2. Agencies which provide recreation facilities in this region should be aware that much use is by residents from out of this region, and that water is undoubtedly the primary drawing factor. Canyon Ferry Reservoir is the primary destination point and Holter Lake is probably second. These areas will undoubtedly be heavily used in the future, both by residents of Region 8 and other Montana residents.

3. Because water-oriented activities are so popular at this time, and because most recreationists chose a recreation site because it was at a place where a certain activity could take place, recreation areas located on or near water bodies should be a prime consideration for future development in Region 8.

4. Natural beauty also was an important factor in choice of a recreation area but it was still rated below the state average by users of recreation facilities in this region. This indicates that natural beauty is important but that some sites might be better located with regards to natural beauty.

5. Since a relatively high number of respondents indicated a need for additional recreation activities or facilities at selected recreation areas in the region, more and better maintained facilities should be made available at certain areas in this region. Areas oriented to water activities are also desirable.

6. More convenient access to many recreation areas in the region appears to be a needed improvement in this region.

7. The high incidence of resting and relaxing in Region 8, as well as camping, indicates a strong need for facilities to accommodate these activities and other passive recreation activities. Other activities which should receive above average consideration are fishing, swimming, boating and water skiing, all heavily water-oriented. Fishing access again should be a prime consideration in this region as indiced by its top preference by the recreation user.

The Montana Resident

Characteristics of the resident respondents can be found in the Appendixes. These data include the respondents marital status, sex, age, household status, employment, vacation allowance, available time, and general health.

Table following indicates the frequency of participation of various activities by those surveyed and is a measure of their popularity in Region 8.

Some correlation exists between the recreation activities residents engaged in and those they indicated as most preferred. Driving for pleasure ranked first both in participation and preference but other activities were not in such a comparable position. Walking for pleasure and sightseeing rated second and third in activities actually participated in, but fell off slightly in stated preferrence. Fishing, which was fourth most popular activity engaged in, back-country touring which was the fifth most popular activity engaged in, and hunting and camping all gained significantly in the preferrence rating. Fishing was rated by residents as the second most preferred activity.

Fishing, the most popular water-oriented activity reached peaks in the winter, spring, and summer falling off considerably in the fall in Region 8. Its popularity was exceeded only once and that by swimming in July. In winter sports, snowskiing was nearly as popular as snowmobiling for residents of Region 8; in January and March snowskiing exceeded snowmobiling in popularity. Sightseeing was the most popular activity of its kind, peaking generally in the winter and fall and dropping off in summer and spring. At these times it was exceeded by such activities as camping, picnicking, and playing outdoor games. Camping reached its peak during the summer. For those activities normally involving mobility on foot, walking for pleasure far exceeded other activities in popularity. It was exceeded only in the fall by hunting. Driving for pleasure was by far the most popular activity of its nature, peaking at various times throughout the year, but generally at its lowest point through the summer. At no point through the year was its popularity exceeded by any other activity in this category. (For a detailed graphic account see Appendix.)

Natural environment areas, with a minimum of development, were rated most preferred by residents of Region 8. Second most popular were general outdoor recreation areas such as state parks, forest campgrounds, etc. The third most preferred type of area was the primitive area which is characterized by natural wild conditions and lack of roads. One such area in the region is the Gates of the Mountains wilderness area. Use of this area and other nearby primitive areas is evidently quite high by residents of Region 8. Outstanding natural areas such as Glacier National Park or Yellowstone National Park, as well as historic and cultural sites, also ranked quite high with residents of Region 8. (See Appendix for further details.)

Implications

1. Driving for pleasure is indicated as being the most popular activity in Region 8; associated sightseeing is also rated high in this region. Although new roads to accommodate driving for pleasure are certainly not necessarily desirable, facilities to enhance driving for pleasure on existing roads should probably be made available for residents of Region 8. Points of interest with interpretive signing and rest stops could be provided to a higher degree on more interesting roads. Loop roads are already in existence: One of the most popular in the region is the "Figure 8" road, which winds its way through the Big Belt Mountains in the eastern part of the region. Other areas in the region offer comparable potential

2. Walking for pleasure is a very important activity in Region 8. Facilities such as walkways and reststops should be provided at various points of interest such as Canyon Ferry Reservoir, perhaps Mount Helena, and within the urban areas.

3. Fishing, swimming, water skiing, and boating, all water-oriented activities, are of much importance to residents of this region and appropriate facilities to accommodate such activities should be provided, not only at Canyon Ferry, Hauser, and Holter Lakes within the region, but along other water courses. More and better access is of prime importance regarding these activities.

4. Backcountry touring with a 4-WD vehicle is another activity of high popularity in this region. Much public land is already being used to accommodate this activity, and facilities for such an activity are limited. In the future, stricter control regarding this activity will be taken by public agencies to prevent deterioration of the environment.

5. Winter activities are important to residents of this region and considerable snowfall provides for such activities as snowmobiling and snowskiing. Future demands for these activities warrant expansion of present ski facilities in the region, and the construction or marking of more snowmobile trails for the future.

Ice skating is generally confined to the town areas or the major lakes in the area.

6. Region 8 residents prefer natural undeveloped environment type areas and primitive areas to recreate in, although a sizable percentage also desire general outdoor recreation areas with developed facilities. Because of a strong interest in the two previous areas, access to the more remote areas of national forests should be increased. A minimum of developed facilities, where feasible, should also be provided in these areas to help control impact on such areas. Developed camping, boating, swimming facilities, etc. should continue to be developed at key locations, especially in areas of greater natural beauty.

Problems and Potentials for Recreation in Region 8

Driving for pleasure has a relatively high potential in many areas in Region 8. The "Figure 8" route which is northeast of Helena, and the Wolf Creek Canyon-Missouri River Recreation Road are two good examples of desirable driving for pleasure routes. Other areas in the region which have potential for this activity are the Lincoln area, the area near Marysville, Unionville, Boulder, and the Big Belt Mountains to the east of Canyon Ferry Reservoir. Rest areas, overlooks, secondary attraction roads, and the recreation road concept all add to driving for pleasure. The part of the Missouri River-Wolf Creek Canyon Recreation Road existing in this region receives relatively high use. Existing roads should provide the basis for any future recreation roads or roads for driving for pleasure.

Walking for pleasure, the second most popular activity in Region 8, should be enhanced at points of interest and in towns, in the region, by development of walkways, reststops, interpretation, and landscaping. Helena is one place for such development as is the shore line areas of the north end of Canyon Ferry Reservoir.

4-WD vehicles and other all-terrain vehicles used for backcountry touring create a similar problem as motor bikes: the deterioration of the land. In this region, as well as other regions in the state, the U. S. Forest Service will probably close some logging roads after use to help control and restrict the use of 4-WD units in these areas.

Sightseeing, a very popular activity, is often associated with driving for pleasure, and Region 8 has many historic sites and scenic areas for sightseeing to take place. Ghost towns such as Elkhorn, Marysville, Confederate Gulch, and the historic and architectural buildings of Helena are some to note.

Inventory of Facilities

Federal and State Recreation Facilities

In Region 8 the U.S. Forest Service and the Montana Fish and Game Department are the major public agencies which provide recreation facilities and land for public recreation use. The Bureau of Land Management also has some land available and is developing facilities at one point on Holter Lake. Major areas with selected facilities are summarized below.

FEDERAL AND STATE RECREATION AREAS - REGION 8

Federal	Picnic Units	Camping Units	Swimming Area Available	Fishing Access Available	Boat Ramp Available
U. S. Forest Service					
Copper Creek	6	20	0	X	0
Aspen Grove	0	20	0	X	0
Tenmile Picnic Ground	10	0	0	0	0
McDonald Pass	0	23	0	0	0
Porcupine	0	18	0	0	0
Moose Creek	0	11	0	0	0
Park Lake	0	7	0	X	0
Basin Canyon	0	6	0	0	0
Morman Gulch	0	10	0	X	0
Whitehouse	5	4	0	X	0
Lady Smith	0	5	0	X	0
Shamrock	0	16	0	0	0
Bison Creek Picnic Ground	8	0	0	0	0
Elk Park	0	11	0	0	0
Lowlands	13	6	0	0	0
Delmo Lake Picnic Ground	20	0	0	X	X
Homestake Lake	5	5	0	X	X
Elkhorn Picnic Ground	8	0	0	0	0
Crystal Creek Picnic Ground	12	0	0	0	0

Fishing in Region 8 is extremely popular, but access to public water is a major problem. Hunting has a similar problem where access to public lands is concerned, many being blocked by private owners. The potential for fishing and hunting in Region 8 is high.

For those recreationists interested in picnicking, Region 8 has a modest number of picnicking sites, both developed and undeveloped. Numerous mountain areas remain some of the better picnic sites as well as the areas along the major rivers and waterways. The emphasis on camping seems to be toward undeveloped areas for this activity, with a centrally located area which provides for different types of recreation. While there are many campgrounds in this region, with the Forest Service providing the majority in the mountainous areas on national forest land, and the Fish and Game Department providing a majority along the waterways and on the lakes, more are needed.

Planning Region 8 has the opportunity for motor boating, but does have limited facilities for this activity. Canyon Ferry Reservoir, for example, only has seven access sites, including the marinas, and this is somewhat of a limitation. Certain ramps are usable only at certain times of the year. The Fish and Game Department is considering the possibility of restricting the size of boats on certain rivers in this region, as well as other rivers in the state.

At the present time there appears to be no shortage of roads and trails for motor bike riding on public land in Region 8. The Forest Service has about 200 to 300 miles of potential motor bike trails. Some restriction of motor bike use of certain trails is imminent in the future. Perhaps selected areas which provide the type of land needed for motor bike recreation might be set aside in order to protect the remaining environment. This concept would provide the motor bike rider with an alternative; for instance gravel pits and dredge cuts near Helena might be used for such a purpose.

At present there are no designated bicycle trails as such in Region 8. Bicycling is generally confined to the urban areas, but there is a future possibility of some bicycle trails being established in national forests at selected points of interest. Certain areas in Region 8 might offer possibilities for a prototype trail to determine what the preferences are for bicycling. One such area might be the Missouri River-Wolf Creek Canyon Recreation Road area; another the Marysville area, or perhaps a bicycle trail around lake Helena or Unionville. Further it might be suggested to the highway department the possibility of providing for bicycling along designated sections of new highway.

Deep Creek	1	6	0	0	0
Skidway	0	11	0	0	0
Vigilante	1	14	0	0	0
Holter Picnic Ground	8	0	0	X	0
Meriwether Picnic Ground	17	0	0	X	0
Wood Lake	0	7	0	X	0
Straight Creek	0	10	0	0	0
Benchmark	0	14	0	X	0
Southfork	0	7	0	0	0
Home Gulch	0	15	0	0	0
Total	114	246	0	12	2
Bureau of Land Management					
Holter Lake	10	20	X	X	X
Total	10	20	1	1	1
State					
Montana Fish and Game Department					
Hooper Recreation Area	15	10	0	0	0
Parrot Castle Fishing Access Site	4	0	0	X	0
Lewis & Clark Caverns State Park	73	42	0	0	0
Tizer Lake Fishing Access Site	0	0	0	X	0
Deepdale Fishing Access Site	0	4	0	X	X
Indian Road Recreation Area	5	15	0	X	X
Cottonwood Recreation Area	0	0	0	X	0
Silos Recreation Area	10	20	X	X	X
Confederate Gulch Recreation Area	0	0	X	X	X
Hellgate Recreation Area	20	40	X	X	X
White Earth Recreation Area	10	15	X	X	X

Crittendon Recreation Area	0	10	X	X	0
Orchards Recreation Area	5	3	X	X	0
Lewis & Clark Recreation Area	5	3	X	X	0
Loreli Recreation Area	5	3	X	X	0
Magpie Bay Recreation Area	5	5	X	X	X
Cave Bay Recreation Area	10	10	X	X	X
Schaffer Gulch Recreation Area	15	0	X	X	X
Court Sheriff Recreation Area	10	15	0	X	X
Riverside Recreation Area	8	7	0	X	X
Overlook Recreation Area	0	10	0	0	0
Regulating Reservoir Recreation Area	18	0	0	X	0
Beartooth Recreation Area	0	0	0	X	0
Missouri River Wolf Creek Canyon Recreation Road	35	31	0	X	0
Bean Lake Fishing Access Site	5	5	0	X	X
Total	258	248	11	22	12
Total Selected Facilities-Region 8	382	514	12	35	15

MAJOR RECREATIONAL RESOURCES

The Helena National Forest

The dominant recreational resource of the region is the Helena National Forest, an area of nearly a million acres of great variety in terrain and vegetation. Three major units of the forest comprise the system and these are distributed throughout the three counties, Lewis and Clark, Broadwater and Jefferson, making up the region.

To the casual visitor the forest would seem to provide an almost unlimited supply of opportunity for recreation in the out of doors, and in broad and general terms, the forest does indeed offer this experience to an amazing extent. The broad opportunity, however, is punctuated with specific and detailed limitations, and with abrupt influences upon a variety of experience. To understand this paradox of potential limitation in a field of apparently boundless opportunity, it is necessary to understand something of the natural characteristics of the forest itself, together with the assorted, conflicting demands placed upon this resource. Prominent in these demands is the dramatic increase in use by the ever larger numbers who go to the forest for solitude, wilderness experience, or simply to enjoy the contrast of environment which the woodlands offer.

In recognition of these demands, and of the limitations of the resource upon which these demands are being placed, the staff of the Forest Service is engaged in a program of multiple use planning. The objective of the program is a management plan that will guide future administration of the resources so that the various elements are protected, preserved and used in a coordinated pattern that best meets the needs of the people, on both the national and local basis.

The Forest Service recognizes that the expressed needs of the people are undergoing sweeping changes. While the demands for the forest products have increased substantially, the broad public on a national basis has demonstrated deep concern for protection of the amenities of the forest, the solitude, remoteness and aesthetics of this special kind of environment. The Helena Forest is thus in a position to contribute a significant portion of the local and national demand for outdoor recreation, in activity ranging from the wilderness campout to the evening pleasure drive.

The forest, truly a land of many uses, may perhaps best be introduced in terms of the several major zones, each as determined by the climate, topography and vegetative cover. These zones, in turn, have a distinct influence upon the nature and quantity of recreation opportunity available.

(The information is provided through the office of the forest supervisor.)

High Area Zone

Approximately 10% of the forest consists of this zone which contains the highest of the elevations together with its associated down-slope region. Most of the zone is located in the northerly end of the Lincoln District and here are found the sheer, rocky peaks with boulder strewn bases, frequently the site of glacial circques and basins. The peaks are often separated by the vast expanses of barren ridges of somewhat lower elevation, together forming the backdrop for the 15 alpine lakes which dot the region, only some of which provide fishing. The high country provides the more dramatic of the scenic panoramas, frequently enlivened by the appearance of the big game species making use of the areas as a summer range.

Vehicle access is almost nonexistent and will continue to be so, particularly in the areas more valuable aesthetically. The recreation experience is characteristically one of a more challenging nature, but rewarding the visitor with a singular aesthetic enjoyment. Recreation is available on foot or on horsebackbut always in a dispersed manner, with the primary activity of sightseeing, some fishing and limited hunting in season. No development or trails would be permitted, and use would be regulated in terms of its limited capacity, together with the need to maintain a high quality of water for which this zone is a dependable producer.

General Forest Zone

The general forest zone includes approximately 715,000 acres or nearly 75% of the total forest. The general zone consists of the middle range of elevations and provides the predominant share of the timber harvest and the forage for livestock. It is here that the larger game animals and most other wildlife species are found and the zone contains some key winter ranges for big game. Large numbers of livestock use the zone and grazing is generally distributed over much of this part of the forest.

This region is generally accessible to the recreationist and provides a variety of recreation pursuits. Road access can generally be provided, with some major exceptions where the resource will be maintained in its natural character, as for example the limestone escarpments in the northerly end of the Big Belt Mountains. The general rolling topography, much of it timber covered, attracts most of the recreational use. The forest soils will generally withstand the impact of human activity, however, the region contains subzones of fragile soil and vegetative cover where recreation would be limited.

The competitive uses including recreation, timber production, livestock foraging and mining require detailed management plans to insure that forest amenities be retained while the necessary commodities are provided.

It is here that the visitor would find the forest environment in all its variety and in its most accessible and useable nature. Here one would find the developed campgrounds and trails, the accommodations to enable the outdoorsman to establish a base for the visitor to the more inaccessible high area zones. It is also here that the visitor would find the most conflict of use, from the groups interested in the forest from a commodity standpoint such as timber, grazing and mining, including the conflict generated by presence of other recreationists all equally intent on enjoying huge areas of the resource to the exclusion of others.

While the general zone is the source of most of the hunting and fishing opportunity, the game species of either are primarily members of the overall ecosystem, and thus management must first seek to maintain all of these elements in their proper order. Attention and appropriate action for the overall needs of the small mamals, song birds and the other less recognized members of the wildlife community has a significance quite apart from and greater than the recreational value derived.

Lower Slope-Foothill Zone

This zone is less extensive than the others, containing approximately 90,000 acres as compared to the 100,000 acres in the high area zone and the 715,000 acres in the general forest, or mid-zone, as it is called. The slope and foothill zone is the one merging with private lands, and to the casual observer, it is difficult to distinguish between the two, often leading to erroneous conclusions that the public lands are greater in extent than is actually the case. The terrain most characteristic of the lower slope-foothill is found in the greatest quantity on the east slope of the Elkhorns and on the west slope of the Belts.

Because of the gentler terrain, the location relative to population, and the year around access by vehicle, the area has been heavily used by recreationists, particularly hunters. Increasing damage from cross-country vehicle travel has been noted in recent years. The area has often been overgrazed and has suffered from concentrations of big game using the source as a winter range. The zones indicated are very dry and tend to recover only slowly. The zone does support large numbers of grazing cattle, however, and the forage and browse plants are a key element in game habitat.

It is in this lower zone which would normally be the locale of the more developed recreation facility, with much of this destined to be provided by the private sector.

Travel Influence Zone

The travel influence zone has connotations of human use, primarily the recreationist, and management decision are thus oriented to providing to the extent feasible, the amenities desired by the visitor using primarily the major transportation routes, and of course other routes as well.

This zone is comprised of land corridors, varying in width from 1/8 to 1 mile or more in width and which are associated with the main travel routes and encompassing all of the land in the immediate view of most Forest visitors. This would also include the areas adjacent to developed recreation areas. The objective of a pleasant journey for the traveller guides the planning and actions relative to forest uses in this zone. The visual aspects of the resource, the scenic views, glimpses of wildlife, the quality of undisturbed natural areas and the condition of the road itself are the factors.

Special Zones

The Gates of the Mountains Wilderness area and the Lincoln Backcountry are the primary examples of this category. As the study progresses, a number of other candidate areas will be reviewed and identified so they might be managed for that purpose. These could be very small, but unique resources, unusual wild areas or areas associated with alpine lakes for example. The Gates of the Mountains river gorge, a spectacular six mile section of the Missouri River is a fine example.

Water Influence Zone

There are few areas in the Helena Forest where water is the dominant factor and consequently this zone totals less than 15,000 acres. The major portion of this resource is found along the tributaries of the Blackfoot and the Little Blackfoot rivers and along the Missouri River, particularly in the Gates of the Mountains area.

Since the above areas carry the total potential for the Forest, they are of exceptional importance to the public for water based recreation. The quality of the water originating in the forest region is of paramount importance for a wide range of uses. Recreation use is thus increasingly influenced by considerations necessary to preserve or improve the quality of this basic resource.

Gates of the Mountains Wilderness

This 28,526 acre area is a part of the National Wilderness System and was designated as such in 1948. It was named for the mountains that appeared to Lewis and Clark to block their passage and only a few additional trails have changed its appearance since then. It is managed of course to preserve these wilderness qualities.

The wilderness is high dry country with spectacular limestone escarpments and interesting weathered formations. As in most wilderness areas, the recreational attractions are visual ones, inspiring the hiker and the rider to further explorations. This wilderness area is small enough that it can be covered easily by hiking and particularly by horseback. Hiking is easy over the alpine meadows with their great variety of flowers. The rolling plateaus are interspersed with stands of timber and park like areas which add to the variety and interest. Trails lead also through some narrow, irregular gorges cut in the limestone by the small streams over thousands of years. The canyon walls in this area are noted for the small moss like phlox that covers sizeable areas in a brilliant green.

Wildlife, always of great interest in such a setting, is present with species such as elk, deer, bear and mountain goats among the more spectacular. The visitor is intrigued particularly by the latter, an agile resident of unique and dramatic settings.

Hunting is permitted in season. While there are no fishing waters in the area, the nearby Missouri River provides excellent fishing.

Visitors may reach the area by boat travel to Meriweather Campground and then hike into the area, or one may take the road northeasterly of Helena and hike from the trails leading off the road.

There is little if any prospect of the nature of recreational use changing in this area. As use intensifies, however, we may anticipate a regulation of visitor capacity, particularly with respect to pack animals.

Recreation Use of the Forest

Both in the eyes of the public and in reality, recreation in total spectrum--scenery, wildlife, solitude, history, streams, lakes, Forest roads and trails, campgrounds, the open range, the summer home--comprises the most significant potential on this Forest for fulfilling the needs of society.

Recreation use is expanding rapidly not only in volume, but probably just as significantly in the broadening range of pursuits.

Statistics tell one story:

	1940	1950	1960	1970
Forest Recreation Visits	46,000	74,000	227,000	406,000
Camp & Picnic Ground Capacity - Helena Forest	448	558	---	1,644

	1950	1960	1969
* Big Game Hunting Licenses Sold in In Montana (Thousands)	87	120	184
Fishing Licenses Sold in Montana (Thousands)	160	187	196

It is obvious that the increased use is not taking place in developed campgrounds. Statistics do not point out the expanding uses of today that were unknown (and unpredicted) 20 years ago--snowmobiling, motorcycling, bottle and rock hunting, organized walks, all terrain vehicles--nor do they indicate the growing swell of public interest in recreation opportunity on wildlands, whether they use it or not.

Development of recreation use on the Forest is typical of most Region One units; principally hunting and fishing, and escape from summer heat by local residents prior to WW-11, then a steady increase since, with tourists making up an increasing proportion of the total and the variety of uses expanding.

Campground and picnic area development has generally lagged behind the demand and behind other Forests, partly because of the lack of ~~really~~ access to favorable sites, and partly simply because of lack of really choice sites having associated desirable features. Today, seven of the fifteen developed sites on the Forest are adjacent to major highways and probably serve the travelling

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* Includes only resident "A" Deer and Elk.

public more than facilitating Forest enjoyment. Hopefully, it will soon become profitable for the private sector or communities to furnish more of the "Bedroom" type campgrounds.

Existing facilities have been continually upgraded and are in good condition. All, however, lack modern dependable safe water supply systems, and sanitation facilities generally will not meet current standards.

While the peak load demandfor developed sites will continue to exceed the supply, whatever the pace of development, a principal use and potential is in the several ranges of dispersed recreation, primarily hunting, back country visits, and probably snowmobiling.

The historic value of sites on this Forest that played a prominent role in development has not been fully captured for the public. Archeological sites and areas have not been fully inventoried or protected.

Two areas have gained national significancefrom the recreation standpoint. The Gates of the Mountains, a six mile river gorge through sheer and towering limestone escarpments, provides outstanding scenery and figures prominantly in the history of the Lewis & Clark Expedition. It is the most popular and heavily visited portion of a recreation complex that includes all of Holter Reservoir (private power project), the 28,000 acre Wilderness to the east, and the Fish & Game Department's 32,000 acre Beartooth Game Range that borders the Forest and extends east from the Reservoir for some 15-shore miles downstream. Meriwether Campground (an 11-unit development on the Missouri in the Gates) receives over 20,000 visits a year, although accessible only by boat. A major share of these visitors come to the area on an excursion boat that plyes the Reservoir daily in the summer season from a privately operated marina at Hilger--near the upper end of the Reservoir.

The "Lincoln Back Country," a 75,000 acre area on the northwest corner of the Forest, has achieved national prominence because of an extended hassle over proposed wilderness designation. It is part of a 240,000 acre area which includes portions of the adjoining Lolo and Lewis & Clark National Forests and is contiguous to the Bob Marshall Wilderness. The Helena portion is an undeveloped area comprising the East Fork of the Blackfoot and upper Landers Fork drainages. It had provided a back country experience for local people through the years, and serves as the Helena Forest entrance to the vast wilderness to the north. Publicity during the push for wilderness has given the area national stature, and' use has increased markedly.

While water and fishing based recreation abounds in the general area, such sites within the Forest are limited generally to the high country lakes, the Gates of the Mountains area, and the Big and Little Blackfoot Rivers. The only lakes with developed facilities are two small man-made impoundments. Park Lake (south of Helena constructed in 1870 to furnish water to the placer operations), and Snowbank Lake (a seven-acre impoundment near copper creek north of Lincoln. Both were improved cooperatively by the Forest and the Fish & Game Department. Both are kept well stocked and support heavy use. There are several other opportunities to develop or enlarge small lakes.

There is a continuing heavy demand for recreation residence sites, though only a very few are available, all at the Forest Heights Colony near MacDonald Pass. There are presently 84 such sites under permit spread throughout the Forest, some in groups, some isolated. Many were authorized many years ago for this purpose, others have evolved through relinguishment of invalid mining claims--these recreation residences account for less than 1% of the total recreation use. Several that tend to limit or discourage open public use are now on limited tenure. A few unauthorized recreation residences still exist. There is private land in and near the Forest that could be made available for this purpose.

One small, non-profit ski area is under permit at Grass Mountain on the Townsend District. It is an asset to the community, though its capacity is limited. Most local skiers use Belmont, a medium-sized area on private and BLM land, or travel to the larger resorts. Two potential winter sports areas on the Forest are being monitored now. It will likely be several years before the demand will justify development of new areas, but the need is building for a local area with more reliable snow conditions.

Snowmobiling use has skyrocketted in recent years. The demand for areas and trails will continue to build. Some use of the Forest for this purpose is appropriate. The fast buildup has thus far exceeded the capability of unit managers to provide adequate facilities or supervision. Some use is occurring in key game ranges, with resultant harrassment and potential herd reduction. There is evidence that continued heavy use in open parks impedes normal vegetation growth. Roads are being rutted up, with resultant erosion and increased maintenance costs as the hardy enthusiasts follow the receeding snow line in the late winter and spring.

A total of 19 commercial outfitter enterprises operate on the Forest, most in the Lincoln Back Country, but some in the remote sections of the Elkhorns and Belts, where requests for permits are increasing. There have also been requests for permits in the Gates of the Mountains Wilderness. Operators range from the larger outfits who handle summer parties of 25 or more and maintain season-long hunting camps, to those who gear up in hunting season for only one or two trips. These outfitters provide a necessary service to the public, but some are conflicting with private party use. Horse feed is generally limited to that needed by private parties, and there is growing reluctance to turn stock out and wrangel for even short distances.

The pattern and trends of recreation use today suggests some policies for the future. Some sites and areas are so popular that the heavy use itself detracts from personal enjoyment and impacts heavily on the land. Key lakeshore tracts in back country areas are especially susceptible, and funds do not permit adequate supervision. Some areas are being abused by a particular type of use--cycle trails in the foothills and on high fragile ridges, four-wheel drives pioneering new roads and crossing open parks; these and the threat of increased use of all terrain vehicles could materially alter the Forest environment.

In some areas the private land pattern adjacent the Forest boundary is blocking public access. Rights-of-way for public use are becoming increasingly hard to obtain as the private land is acquired for private recreation use. Key recreation tracts, which would be valuable for public use within he Forest are being bought up in the rush for acquiring land for exclusive semi-exclusive use of public Forest land to augment private commercial recreation developments. Often, suitable private land is available--but at higher cost.

The recreation resource presents the greatest potential for service to the public. Excessive or inappropriate recreation use also presents a threat to the quality Forest environment. The entire Forest will become increasingly important as a public recreation area, generally without elaborate facilities--just reasonable access to a quality outdoors.

Game and Sport Fish

The wide variety of terrain and vegetation found on the different portions of the forest provide a suitable habitat for numerous species of wildlife. Cold water fish species, including rainbow, brown, cutthroat and eastern brook trout and mountain whitefish, are present in all of the larger permanent streams. These wildlife and fisheries resources provide considerable recreational opportunities for the people of Montana and increasing numbers of out-of-state visitors.

Elk are the most sought after big game animal and huntable populations of elk are present in five of the seven mountain ranges on this forest. The Sun River herd in this division is a major herd in the state.

The herd developed on the Sun River Game Preserve, established in 1913 to protect the relatively small band of animals existing at that time. The herd has overpopulated the preserve and has caused deterioration of the resource as well as other problems on adjoining lands. Hunting pressures outside the preserve have tended to contain the herd on the preserve and this has also caused further damage to the range. The amount of range in the higher elevations is decreasing due to regrowth of trees on the older burned areas. The combinations of overpopulation and limited resources are reasons for which the preserve is under consideration for abandonment.

The management of big game on the forest is dependent to a large degree upon the game ranges adjacent to the forest which are owned and administered by the Fish and Game Department.

Mule deer are found over most of the timbered country of the forest, however, much of the suitable winter range is found on private land some distance outside of the forest. The mule deer is the number one game animal both in terms of numbers on the forest, and in terms of the numbers harvested.

Bighorn sheep and mountain goats provide hunting opportunities for a limited number of people each year on the Rocky Mountain Division of the forest. The Sun River sheep herd, numbering over 600 head, is the largest and the most important in the state of Montana. The herd is noted for trophy hunting and is also the source for trapping and transplanting to other suitable areas in the state. Mountain goats may also be hunted in this division and permits for 100 were issued in 1971.

Hunting for whitetailed deer is more limited than for mule deer and these are found primarily along the drainage bottoms at the lower elevations. The black bear, also distributed throughout the division, is usually found in larger numbers in the heavily timbered drainages at the higher elevations.

The grizzly bear, while low in numbers relative to other animals, is a highly significant species in this division. The largest population in the United States outside of Glacier and Yellowstone Park is found here. The grizzly is an endangered animal and the Forest Service will place a very high priority on the preservation of remnant populations and their habitat wherever they occur on the forest.

While moose are sighted occasionally, there are no areas open for hunting at this time. Franklins Grouse are noted inhabitants of the canopied timber stands on these forests and the blue grouse are found in the ridge tops and the ruffled grouse in the stream bottoms and aspen groves. There are numerous other species of wildlife and these also need individual consideration in resource planning, particularly those with a habitat of rather restricted nature.

General Recreation on the Forest

The Lewis and Clark Forest has long been a summer retreat from the heat and drouth of the lowlands lying easterly of the wooded mountain ranges. Until recent years most of the use was local or regional in origin, however, the out-of-state visitor has discovered the attractions of the Lewis and Clark and is now increasing the visitation significantly. The use is also expanding to a year around activity in sizeable numbers. During the past two years the limitations on camping in Glacier National Park have had a significant effect upon the demand in the Rocky Mountain Division for that and other activities. A significant portion of 13 central Montana counties with a total population of 183,000 has access to the forest within two hours driving time, making the Lewis and Clark Forest the one with the largest population influence in the state. Malmstrom Air Force Base personnel, drawn from throughout the country are especially attracted to this resource.

The Rocky Mountain Division of the forest has nationally recognized attractions such as the Bob Marshall Wilderness, the Scapegoat Wilderness, the Sun River Elk herd and the states largest herd of big horn sheep. Nearby are sites of historical significance, areas associated with the Lewis and Clark Expedition, ghost towns, mining camps and the ancient trails of the Indian nations. The mountains, the plains and the Indians of the region have been memorialized by the paintings of C. M. Russell, noted western artist

The entire forest contains 28 campground and picnic areas providing space and facilities for 4,700 people at a given time. Of these, several acreas are located in the Rocky Mountain Division in Lewis and Clark County. Many of the facilities are old and need heavy maintenance and replacement. Sanitary facilities are especially in need of updating. A lack of sanitation facilities in dispersed areas has a probably effect upon the purity of water in the streams. While no funds are available at this time for development, the forest is planning for eventual construction. Selection of new areas will be made only after very careful consideration of a wide range of factors and plans are thus not available at this time.

Lands adjacent to the forest are undergoing sub-division and conversion to a variety of uses. This has a decided impact upon the forest boundary and also increases the problem of obtaining rights of way access to the forest lands. Summer homes and organization camps are springing up as well as private resorts. Winter use is increased due to the availability of the snowmobile.

Mechanized recreation vehicles, such as trail bikes, motor bikes and all terrain vehicles are becoming more popular and use of these vehicles has more than doubled in the past three years. A continued increase is anticipated and plans will need to be derived to provide protection for the wildlife, the young trees and other vegetation needed by the wildlife itself. Conflicts of use between the motorized trail user and the horseman or hiker have developed and need resolution. Noise pollution, a major irritation associated with snowmobiles usage in the opinion of the other recreationists, is a factor in planning also. Executive Order No. 11644 gives the federal land managing agencies the authority to regulate and control motorized vehicles of all kinds and this will result in a designated system of trails for their use. Use of such vehicles off the road or trail would be prohibited.

Water oriented activities other than fishing are not available on the forest due to lack of large bodies of water. Reservoirs outside of the forest do offer this opportunity, however.

The forest as a whole is a very important watershed for the adjoining lowlands, particularly irrigation use. Gibson Reservoir on the Sun River furnishes water for 89,000 acres of irrigated land. Lewis and Clark County has 14,800 acres of irrigated land receiving water from the Rocky Mountain Division of the forest. The watershed conditions vary widely over the forest, with those on the Rockies rated as poor or fair condition due to the extensive burned over lands at higher elevations where regeneration is very slow. A minimum snow pack will generate flood conditions, which together with the numerous slide areas result in heavy sedimentation to streams, many of them already damaged in the 1964 flood. Fishermen will note the stream channels, bank slumping and flood deposited debris. The subsequent impact upon recreation use and is noted and the management plans for the forest are developed with the objective of alleviating this condition. Nearly 155 miles of forest streams were damaged in the flood with obvious impact on fish habitat. The destruction of two developed campgrounds and numerous potential recreation sites is a substantial loss to recreation opportunity on this part of the forest. The visitor must be aware that the conditions, (slow regeneration of burned off areas) leading to probability of flooding with consequent damage will remain very high for years to come.

Recreational access of the public to the forest lands is becoming more restricted each year due to the closure of adjacent private lands, particularly during the big game hunting season when greater numbers of landowners close their property to such use. Such closures create further pressures on lands where access is available near roads. The acquisition of rights of way on these lands would help relieve these pressures and both the public and the private owner would benefit in this venture. Increased cooperation of the public is essential to maintaining recreational use which is contingent upon access through or over other ownerships.

Despite what appears to be a large system of Forest and county roads and trails, less than one third of the 1,450 mile boundary of the forest is available to unrestricted access. Of the more than 110 miles of boundary along the east side of the Rocky Mountain Division only five legal access routes, Birch Creek, North and South Forks of t Teton River, Sun River and Benchmark Roads, are available for public use. On the Blackfeet Indian Reservation, two roads, the Palookaville and Badger Creek Roads, are only partially available for access due to restrictions placed by the tribal government. Routes on private lands traditionally used by the public have been closed off due to conflicts between landowner and the user.

Adapted from
Forest Service
Manual

WILDERNESS

The Forest administers 240,000 acres of the 950,000-acre Bob Marshall Wilderness. The remaining 710,000 acres lies within the Flathead National Forest. In addition, 233,000 acres of land lying immediately south and east of the Bob Marshall is currently awaiting wilderness classification in Congress. This proposed unit, the Scapegoat Wilderness, is partially within the Helena, Lolo, and Lewis and Clark National Forests. Some 80,000 acres are administered by the Lewis and Clark.

Bob Marshall Wilderness

All of the Bob Marshall Wilderness on the Lewis and Clark Forest lies immediately east of the Continental Divide in the headwaters of the Sun River. Weather conditions are typical of the mountain areas east of the Divide. Topography varies from a broad, gentle valley in the North Fork of the Sun River to narrow, V-shaped valleys in the South and West Forks of the Sun River. Rugged limestone reefs of the Lewis Overthrust formation characterize the major hydrologic divides. Vegetation types are primarily dense, pole-size stands of lodgepole pine and rough fescue - Idaho-fescue grasslands. Engelmann spruce, alpine fir, Douglas-fir, alpine larch, aspen, bog birch, and sedge are types found in lesser quantities.

Natural wildfires have burned nearly the entire area in the past 100 years. This has resulted in the extensive stands of lodgepole pine. Also, fire paved the way for the increase in size of the Run River elk herd. Fire detection and suppression techniques developed in the last 30 years have reduced the natural role of fire.

Use patterns in the Bob Marshall have changed from primarily horse-oriented use to foot travel during the past five years. Approximately half the visitors that enter the wilderness on the Forest have destinations on the Flathead portion of the Bob Marshall. Most of these users spend at least one night on the Forest on their way to the Flathead. Visitors to the Lewis and Clark have in the past been interested in hunting and fishing; more recently, the trend is toward greater use and enjoyment of the wilderness resource. Backpacking, nature interpretation, and photography are attracting greater numbers of visitors.

The heaviest use period is from July 1 to September 15, when about 80 percent are foot travelers. There is very little use from September 15 to the opening of the hunting season on about October 20. During hunting season about 95 percent of the travel is by horse. All lands west of the North and South Forks of the Sun River are in the Sun River Game Preserve. This results in concentrations of hunting camps along the east side of the North and South Forks of the Sun River within the wilderness. Hunting of elk is done on a quota system and the season has remained open as late as January 15. The concentration of hunters along the preserve boundary interrupts elk migration and holds them in the preserve until heavy snow forces them out. This situation is directly responsible for deteriorating range conditions within the preserve.

The general condition of the wilderness resource is good, though conditions in key areas vary from poor to fair; i.e., Indian Point and North Fork Sun River from The Bars to Gates Park. Damage to these concentration areas is a result primarily of horse use in the form of overgrazing and trampling when trees are used to tie stock. Invasion of Canadian thistle in several areas has resulted from overgrazing, trampling, and poor quality hay being used. During the past five years backpacker campsites have become very noticeable. Trampling, fire rings, tent pegs, bough beds, and litter are examples of damage at backpacker camps.

An adequate system of access and feeder trails is present. These, in spite of increasing use, are generally considered to be in good condition. Although marking and signing of the trails is good, there is virtually no dispersion of people away from key areas.

Permanent developments in the wilderness consist of six administrative cabins, two bridges, two lookouts, numerous fences, and many semi-permanent hunting camp facilities. The airstrip at Gates Park was closed in 1970.

Fishing, considered above average, is centered on 35 miles of the North Fork Sun River and one lake. Hunting is fair at best due to the influence of the Sun River Game Preserve.

A detailed management plan for the Bob Marshall has been prepared and is expected to be approved in the near future.

Scapegoat Wilderness

The Scapegoat Wilderness lies east of the Continental Divide on the southeast corner of the Bob Marshall Wilderness. It encompasses most of the headwaters of the South Fork of the Sun and Dearborn Rivers. Climate, topography and vegetation types are the same as those found in the Bob Marshall.

Natural wildfires have burned over much of the entire area, though not as recently as in the Bob Marshall. Pole and small sawlog-size lodgepole pine now occupies the old burns. In 1934, Green Fork and Halfmoon Creeks burned and since then no major fires have occurred in the area.

To date, use of this areas has been limited to horseback travelers, a few motorcyclists, and fall hunting parties. Damage from these uses generally centered around commercial outfitter campsites, is considered negligible. The condition of the native resource is good.

The trail system is mostly in good condition; however, in some areas 1-to 3-mile sections still show damage from the 1964 flood. Access to the area is provided by five main trails.

Annual litter problems are not serious; however, old stoves and garbage from past years are evident in many areas.

Permanent developments consist of two lookouts, two administrative cabins, one special use hunting cabin, and several short sections of drift fence. Corrals, hitchracks, and tent frames are present at four of the six commercial outfitter camps.

Fishing is poor in all streams except the Dearborn River which has made a partial recovery from the 1964 flood. Prior to the flood most streams were considered barren. Hunting is good for elk throughout the entire area. A small portion of the Sun River Game Preserve lies on the west side of the South Fork of the Sun River in the northwest corner of the area. Mule deer hunting is excellent; however, few are harvested due to the remoteness of the area and most hunters in the area are after elk. A sizeable population of grizzly bear inhabit the area.

Deer Lodge Forest

Portions of the Deer Lodge Forest found in this region are located entirely in Jefferson County with a total of approximately 12,000 acres within its boundaries. This acreage makes up nearly one half of the total area of the county and is a dominant recreation resource. Due to the proximity of the city of Butte, out of region residents make considerably more use of the forest in this county than do the residents of Region 8 as a whole. Interstate 90, crossing the southern segment, brings a number of out of state tourists to the area as well, although it is not considered as a destination for them.

The Deer Lodge Forest has historically provided a diversity of products and uses. Timber harvest, forage production, all forms of outdoor recreation, water production, wildlife and fisheries habitat and mineral extractions all have been important uses. This forest has also played an important role in the provision of facilities and resources for the special needs of youth, the handicapped and the disadvantaged through the several social programs such as the Civil and Conservation Center, the Green Thumb Program, Concentrated Employment Program and the Neighborhood Youth Corps as well as the Supplemental Training Employment Program.

The Jefferson County segment of the Deer Lodge Forest is served by two main travel routes, namely Highway 91 and by Interstate 90. It is anticipated that the Interstates 15 and 90 will intersect on forest lands as well. It is along Highway 91 and 90 that the major developed recreation sites are found. These include Elk Park Campground, Bison Campground and Shamrock Picnic Ground which are within easy travel distance of Butte on Highway 91. Rerouting of Highway 91 will have some effect upon these resources. The demand for group picnic areas from the Butte - Anaconda communities is partially served by these facilities. With the opening of Interstate 90, a picnic area on Homestate Lake in the Homestake Pass area was opened and has sustained heavy visitation since. There are 15 family units and there is a special dock on the lake for the use of the handicapped.

Other developed sites include the Whitehouse, Ladysmith and Mormon Gulch campgrounds on the Boulder River, the Elder Creek Campground on the Little Boulder and Basin Canyon Campground on Basin Creek.

The aforementioned highways, together with a portion of Highway 10 which traverses the extreme southern portion, provide a great deal of pleasure driving on this forest. Visitors may travel over two noted passes - Pipestone on

Highway 10 and Homestake on Interstate 90. However, the entire length of each of these travel routes affords interesting terrain and many scenic views. The passes provide intimate views of a great deal of topography at higher elevations which is of special interest to those not capable of arduous effort to see them in any other manner. The Forest Service gives special consideration to the travel zones wherever they may and the traveler is thus assured that the environment will remain essentially undisturbed within the visual limits of the lands adjoining the highway. All other forest uses are managed in conformity with this objective.

Forest lakes are subjected to intensive use and require careful management to preserve the water quality and assure access to all people. Delmo Lake provides moderate fishing and a boat ramp is located there. Under consideration is a minor road providing access from Delmo Lake to Whitetail Park. Whitetail Reservoir undergoes considerable drawdown each summer due to irrigation use and together with the shallow depth of the impoundment overall results in a very limited fishing potential, hence it is not stocked. Access to Delmo and thence to Whitetail Reservoir is over primitive type of roads receiving essentially no maintenance.

Streams on the forest are of low productivity but are fishable, though small in stature. Native cutthroat, Dolly Varden and mountain whitefish, rainbow, brown and eastern brook trout are found. Most natural lakes and impoundments support fish, but pressures are relatively light. Stream habitat inventories are about 60% complete for the total forest, with the remaining streams of low priority. The Forest Service gives special consideration to the water influence zone, managing the other uses with the objective of retaining both aesthetica and environmental quality from the standpoint of the user. Boulder River, Little Boulder River and Bison and Basin Creeks are the major fishing streams.

Visitors to the forest will have the opportunity to view a wide variety of wildlife including antelope, elk, moose, mountain goat, Bighorn sheep, black bear and mountain lions. Goats and sheep are, of course, less prominent in this unit, while elk and mule deer are the mainstays for the hunter. The forest contains several species designated as "status undermined", indicating that there are problems of preservation and these include the Pine Marten, Fisher, wolverine, Northern Bald Eagle and the Golden Eagle. The forest keeps nesting information on the two latter species.

Inventorying of big game habitat has just begun, although key areas are presently identified. There is as yet little information on the non-game species of the forest. Nearly 2200 elk have been planted over the forest since the first plant in 1910, comprising nearly one third of all the elk planted in the state. There are an increasing number of hunters and fishermen each year on the forest with an estimated 10,000 hunters using the Deer Lodge every year. The demand for special permits for moose, goats and sheep far exceed the very limited supply. There is rather light hunting demand apparently, for the three grouse species. Waterfowl hunting is of course, relatively non-existent.

Winter sports are increasing rapidly, especially snowmobiling. Excellent snow conditions on the forest and easy access for the visitor from the larger population centers result in heavy usage. Elk Park Flats near Butte is favored for racing and a course is maintained there each winter by local enthusiasts.

The Continental Divide Trail will become a significant recreation resource on this forest. The trail will cross the main highway routes five times on the Deer Lodge and this is expected to generate heavy usage. The forest will contain nearly 150 miles of this trail altogether. Some trails are already constructed for this purpose.

Elkhorn, a noted ghost town commemorating an extensive mining operation in the early part of the century is visited by large numbers of tourists each year. The town is located easterly of Boulder, in the Elkhorn mountains. Most of the town site is on private land or on parcels which are under mining claims.

In general, the visitor can expect that forest recreation will be directed toward dispersed recreation opportunities and that improvements will be limited to those necessary to protect the environment and to enhance the experience. Areas that have a high potential for cross-country recreation use such as snowmobiling, ski routes, ski areas, hiking trails, winter survival, bike trails and all terrain vehicle use will be identified in management plans. Land adjacent to lakes and to private recreational operations will be investigated to determine key values before development will be allowed to take place. The concept of all year recreation opportunity commensurate with land capability will be given due consideration in the forest management plan.

HAUSER AND HOLTER LAKES

These lakes are reservoir impoundments located on the Missouri River and are created by the dams of the Montana Power Company. Consequently, they are subjected to periodic drawdown in accord with downstream power needs. The waters are of a high quality, somewhat better than Canyon Ferry, due in part to the more limited use than the former. The two lakes and the river portions adjoining are very popular for motor boating. Their elongated nature and the canyons through which they flow provide the opportunity for viewing a great deal of interesting scenery and wildlife along the shore.

Hauser Lake is adjoined by a great deal of private land and there is a considerable amount of private cabin development also. There is a significant amount of Helena Forest land adjoining, however, as well as some BLM lands. Access to the shore is limited due to the terrain and to the many cut banks along much of the area.

Holter Lake, the larger of the two, also has considerable private land adjoining. A major public tract is the Beartooth Game Range, a 27,000 acre tract fronting for nearly nine miles on the reservoir. A recreational development is underway on this range, providing for camping picnicking and for boater access. The area suitable for developments rather limited in the vicinity of the shore. A campground is nearing completion by the Bureau of Land Management on lands owned adjacent to the shore. A parcel relatively inaccessible since access is only across private lands. This parcel does afford a panoramic overlook and the opportunity for camping should access be provided.

Upper Holter Lake provides access to the Gates of the Mountains Gorge, a portion of the river noted in the journals of Lewis and Clark for its seeming ability to block entry to the remainder of the river at that time. A game preserve is located on the gorge on either side and wildlife is commonly seen by the boater. The river also provides a partial view of the Gates of the Mountains wilderness area. A private concessionaire is located on upper Holter Lake and boat tours on the river are provided. Visitors may embark on an early trip, spend the portion of the day at the Forest Service operated Meriwether campground, and return later in the day on the cruiser.

Due to limitations of site terrain, there is not likely to be additional development of any significance on these reservoirs, with the exception of the Beartooth Game Preserve. Since the primary use of the area is for winter game range, other use will continue to be secondary.

LEWIS AND CLARK CAVERNS STATE PARK

This unique and much visited state park is located in the extreme southern tip of the region, closely adjacent to Highway #10. Visitors from throughout the nation are numbered among the approximately 70,000 annual visits to the area. The primary attraction is the huge limestone cavern which geologists consider to be nearly 220 million years of age. It is the largest cave in the Northwest and has many interesting formations and points of interest. Of additional interest to the visitor are the rock formations representing each of the major time zones in geologic history. Informed observers can detect outcroppings from the oldest (archezoic) to the latest periods.

The annual visitation is approximately the maximum which the park tours can accommodate without impairing the opportunity. Since the visit to the caverns is the primary attraction, the attendant camping and picnicking facilities will generally not expand beyond those necessary to handle this activity. The facilities have recently been greatly improved and fully modern conveniences added.

Beartooth Game Range

The Beartooth Game Range provides over 27,000 acres of natural environment area including nearly nine miles of frontage on Holter Reservoir. While the primary management objective of the range is the provision of habitat and winter range for big game of various kinds, the resource affords the opportunity for extensive recreational activity as well. A wide variety of both large and small game native to the area is found on the range, providing the visitors with wildlife viewing through much of the year. Species include the mountain goat and bighorn sheep, as well as the more common animals. Hunting is permitted in season for deer, elk, and to a limited extent, the mountain goat.

The combination of scenery and wildlife offers considerable inducement to the hiker and backpacker and dispersed area type camping is permitted as well. The rolling open foothills interspersed with patches of timber provide easy walking and many interesting park-like areas to explore.

Fishing on Holter Lake is generally very good, while the opportunity of the game range per se is more moderate. Three streams, the Elkhorn, Cottonwood, and Willow Creeks are the primary sources.

The access road winding along the lakeside affords considerable pleasure driving. An interior road offers some access by vehicle, but is periodically closed for management purposes.

A development for camping and picnicking and a boat launching area is underway at an area called Log Gulch. It is not planned that such developments would be extensive on the area and these facilities would have only moderate expansion over a period of time.

The range adjoins the 28,000 acres of Gates of the Mountains Wilderness and offers a relatively convenient base from which to explore this area. The range thus complements and is an integral part of a recreation complex of Holter Lake, the Wilderness and the Game Range, including the Gates of the Mountains Scenic Canyon. The general area is noted as an important habitat of the osprey, a species that is considered somewhat endangered. It is conceivable that recreational use may have some detrimental effect upon the habitat. At present the Forest Service is undertaking a study to determine more about the needs in the area relative to its species.

Recreation Road

A recreation resource of somewhat more potential than is commonly realized is the area known as the Recreation Road between Helena and Great Falls. A frontage road paralleling the interstate through Wolf Creek Canyon and continuing on through the Missouri River Canyon provides access to a number of small sites for a variety of opportunities. A pleasurable drive through the scenic canyons enables the visitor to stop at several fishing access sites, picnic areas, interpretive exhibits of wildlife and other points of interest along the way. The road covers a distance of some 45 miles and provides a total of nineteen sites on portions of Prickly Pear Creek and the Missouri River. The area is developed at nearly full capacity at this time and no further expansion is planned.

CANYON FERRY RESERVOIR

The Canyon Ferry Unit of the Missouri River Basin Project is located on the Missouri River at a site some 15 miles northeasterly of Helena.

The most important secondary uses of the lands and facilities of the Canyon Ferry Unit are recreation and wildlife purposes. The wildlife and the recreation areas are now administered by the Montana Fish and Game Department for their respective purposes. As the official permittee, the Fish and Game Department is charged with the regulation of recreation use and operation, and with the administration of the permits for cabin sites and with the responsibility for the administration of the private concessionaire enterprises which may from time to time be developed at the area.

The surface acre of the reservoir will vary with the fluctuation in water level, however, the average general surface area is 34,000 acres. Initial planning at time of construction estimated the influence of the reservoir on recreation use to extend for 50 miles in each direction. Present use indicates the radius of influence to include the cities of Butte, Great Falls, Bozeman and Billings as well.

The reservoir is a major water resource in terms of lakes or reservoirs, not only in Region 8, but in adjoining regions as well and current use, referred to above, reflects this situation. The traditional water-oriented recreational pursuits are undertaken in considerable volume and there will be no attempt here to provide a relative breakdown of the activities or the combinations of activity. The huge reservoir supplies abundant opportunity, however, congestion on the water does occur in the more popular areas at the northern portion of the lake. It is on the lands adjoining that the critical recreation problems are found at this area. The southern end of the reservoir has many shallow areas unsuitable for boating, tending to concentrate usage in the narrower northern section.

The attraction of the water generates the attendant on shore activities such as camping, picnicking, plus considerable sightseeing and weekend afternoon pleasure drives. The topography at the reservoir site does not lend itself well to the development which would enhance the primary activity. There is a major difference in the west and east shore terrain with consequent influence upon site development.

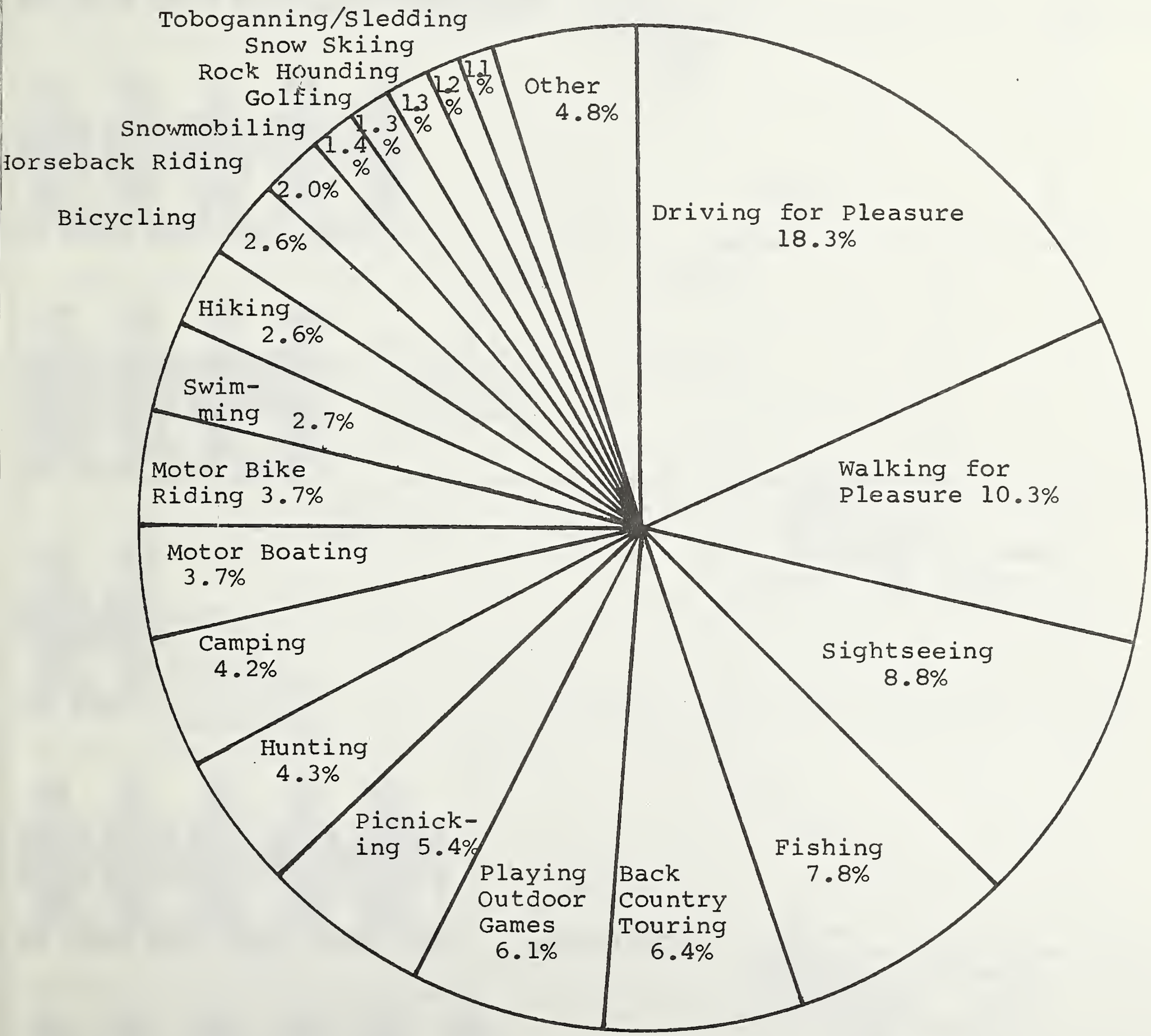
The west shore provides the more scenic area at the reservoir with its irregular topography and tree covered foothills and slopes. For much of the shoreline, the topography is too steep for convenient access and this relegates development to an elevation considerably above the water's edge. Narrow ravines further limit the usage on this side. There are, however, several sites which accommodate development. It is here also that the cabin site leases occupy the more desirable areas with very little good topography left for the general public. The west shore provides excellent panoramas over the lake and several overlook sites are provided, along with limited day use facilities, limited in the sense of ability to accommodate the potential demand.

Plans are underway for the enhancement of facilities and the redesign of several areas at the reservoir. Also under consideration are additional boat ramps and several new camping areas. Dispersal of the congested use presently occurring is a major factor in planning. Walking trails will be added.

The needs of the less capable and handicapped need consideration and their requirements will be planned for as well. The addition of one or more shelters is contemplated for the area.

PLANNING REGION 8

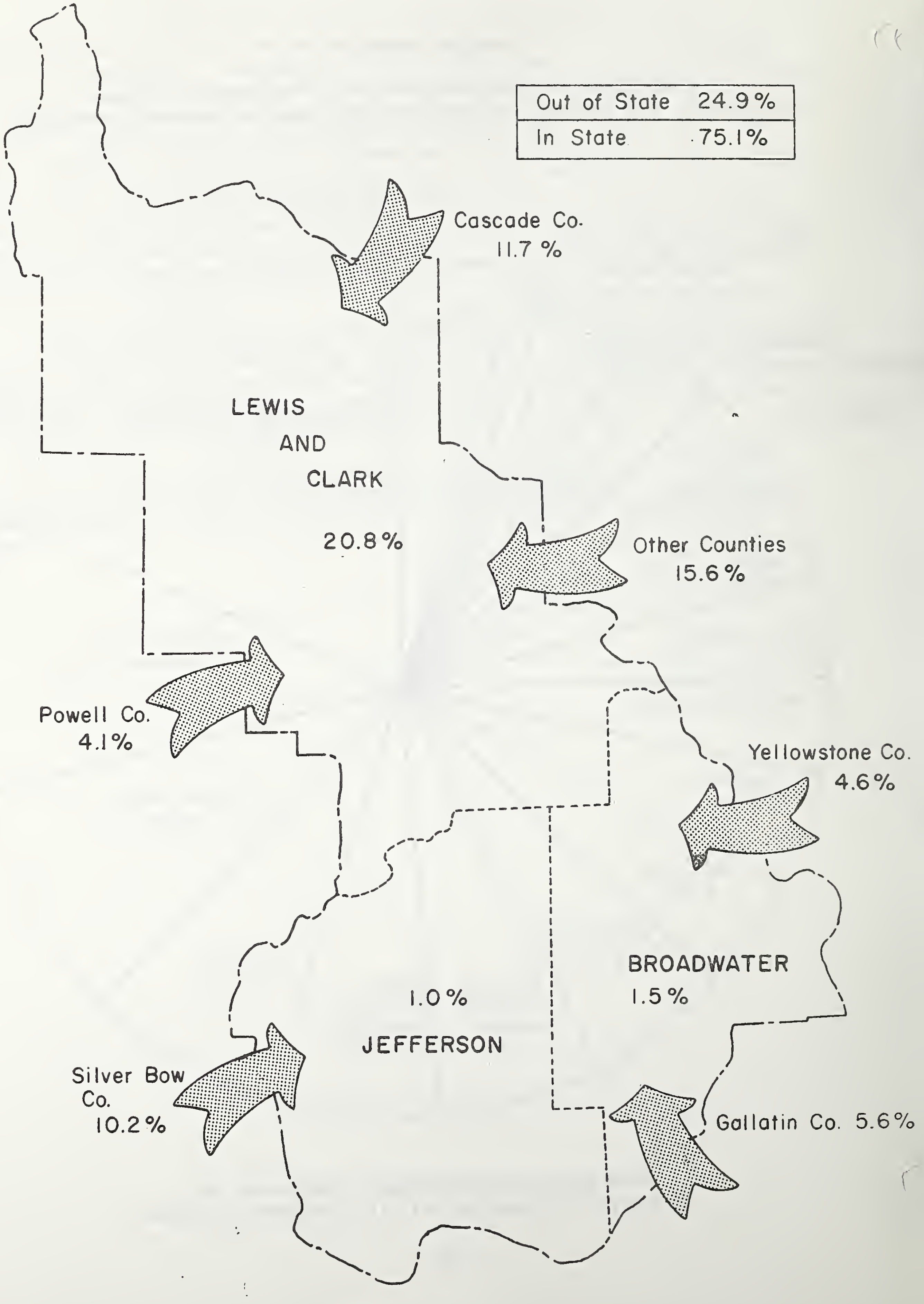
Frequency of Participation in Selected Outdoor Recreation Activities by Montana Residents - Yearly Average



The above percentages represent an activity's portion of all recreation time.

Recreation Area (Summer ıte) Survey

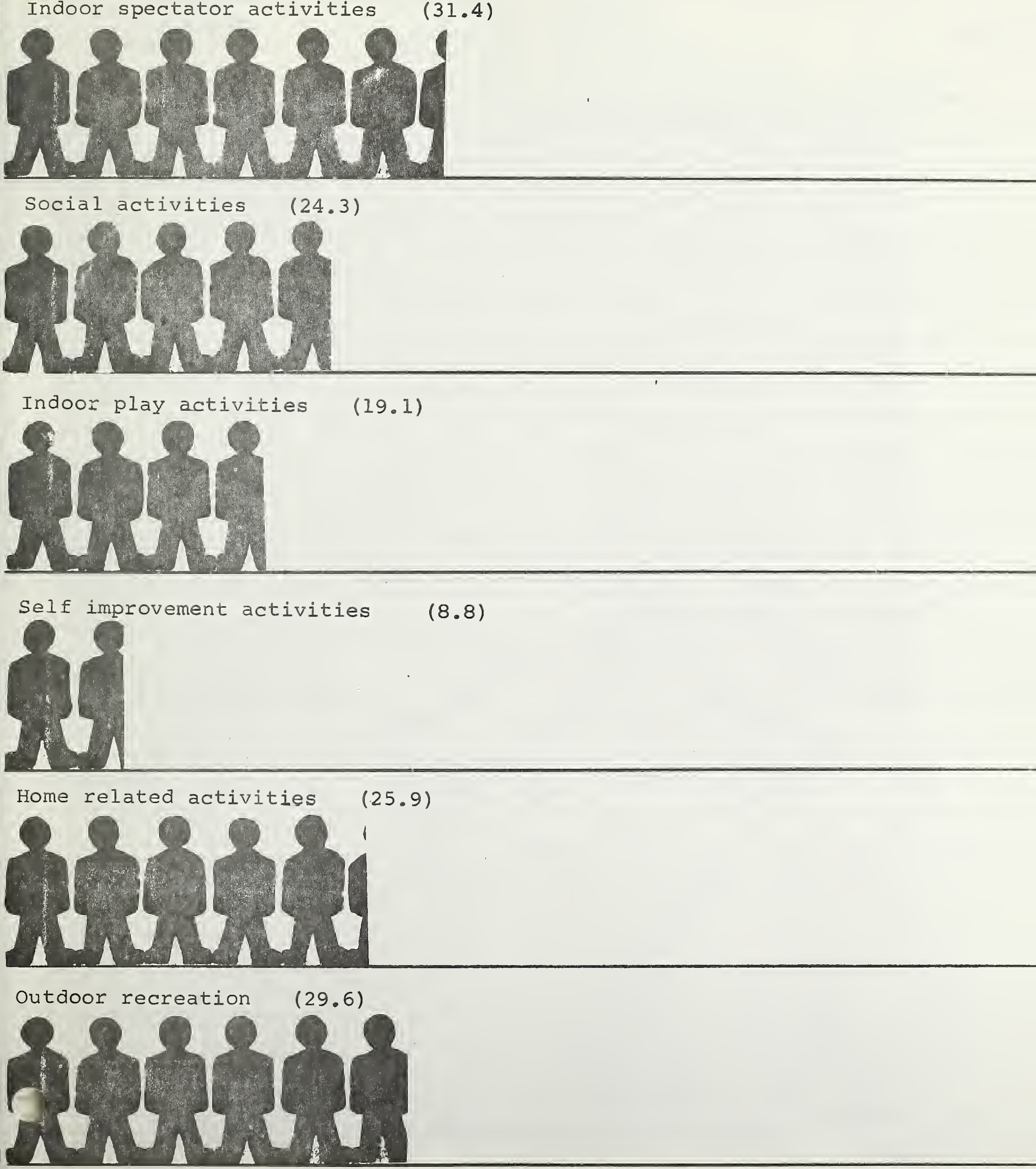
ORIGIN OF PARTIES RECREATING IN PLANNING REGION 8


Out of State 24.9%
In State 75.1%
Cascade Co. 11.7%
LEWIS AND CLARK 20.8%
Other Counties 15.6%
Powell Co. 4.1%
Yellowstone Co. 4.6%
BROADWATER 1.5%
1.0%
JEFFERSON
Silver Bow Co. 10.2%
Gallatin Co. 5.6%

PLANNING REGION 8

Leisure Time Activities Engaged in by Montana Residents - Yearly Average

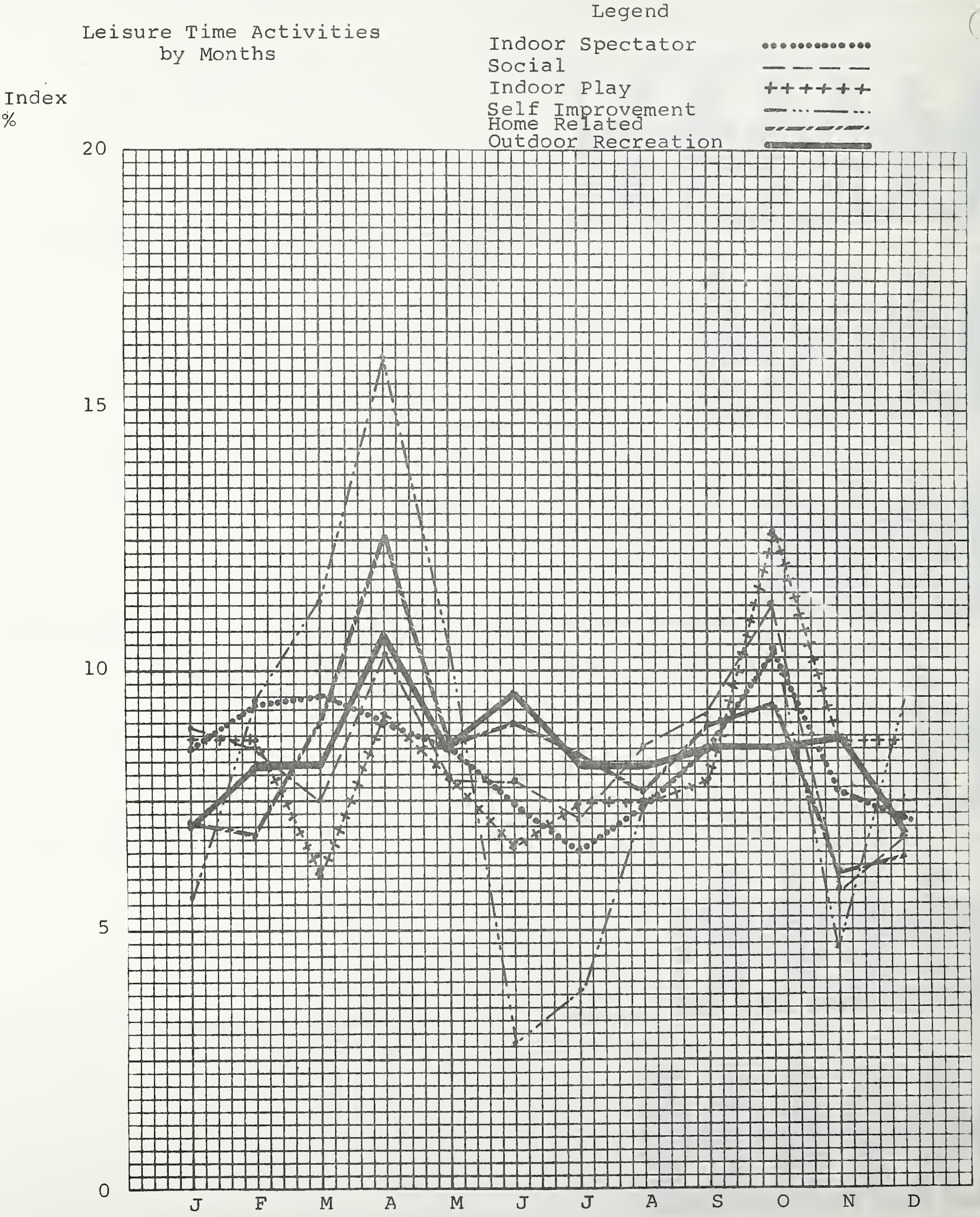
Each man equals 5 responses



Above numbers indicate the average monthly responses from surveyed residents in the planning region.

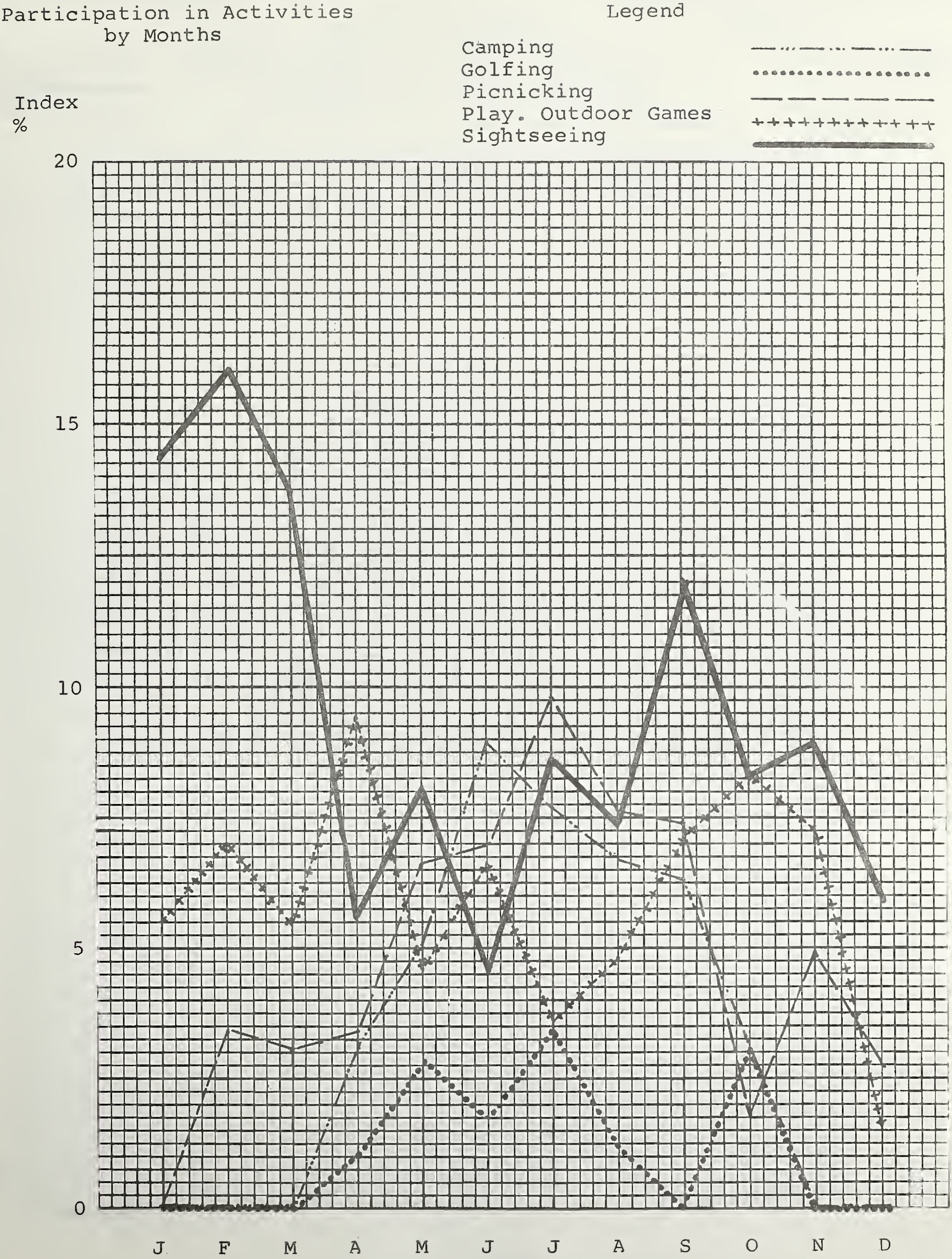
PLANNING REGION 8

Leisure Time Activities
by Months



PLANNING REGION 8

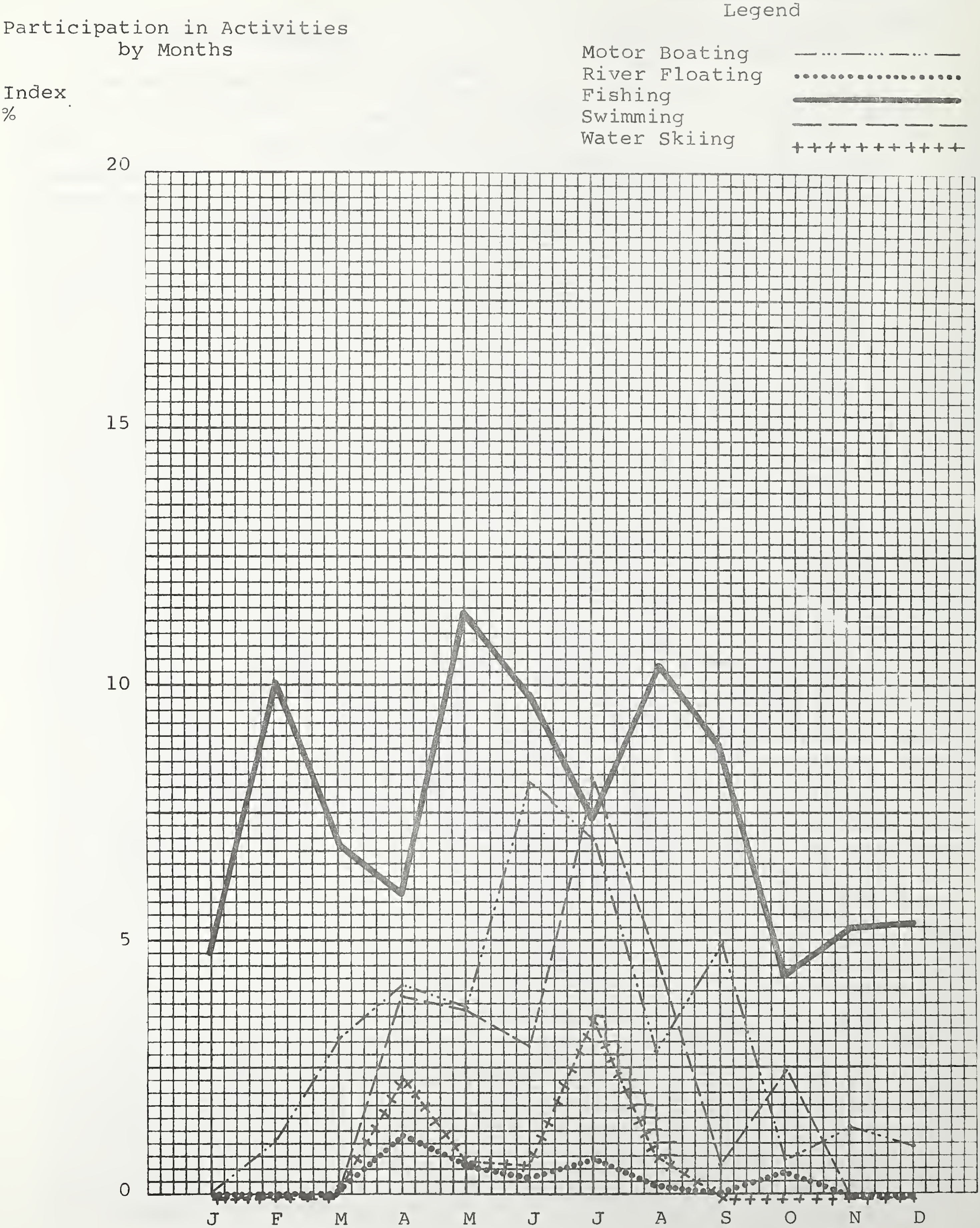
Participation in Activities
by Months



Activities Concentrated in One Area

PLANNING REGION 8

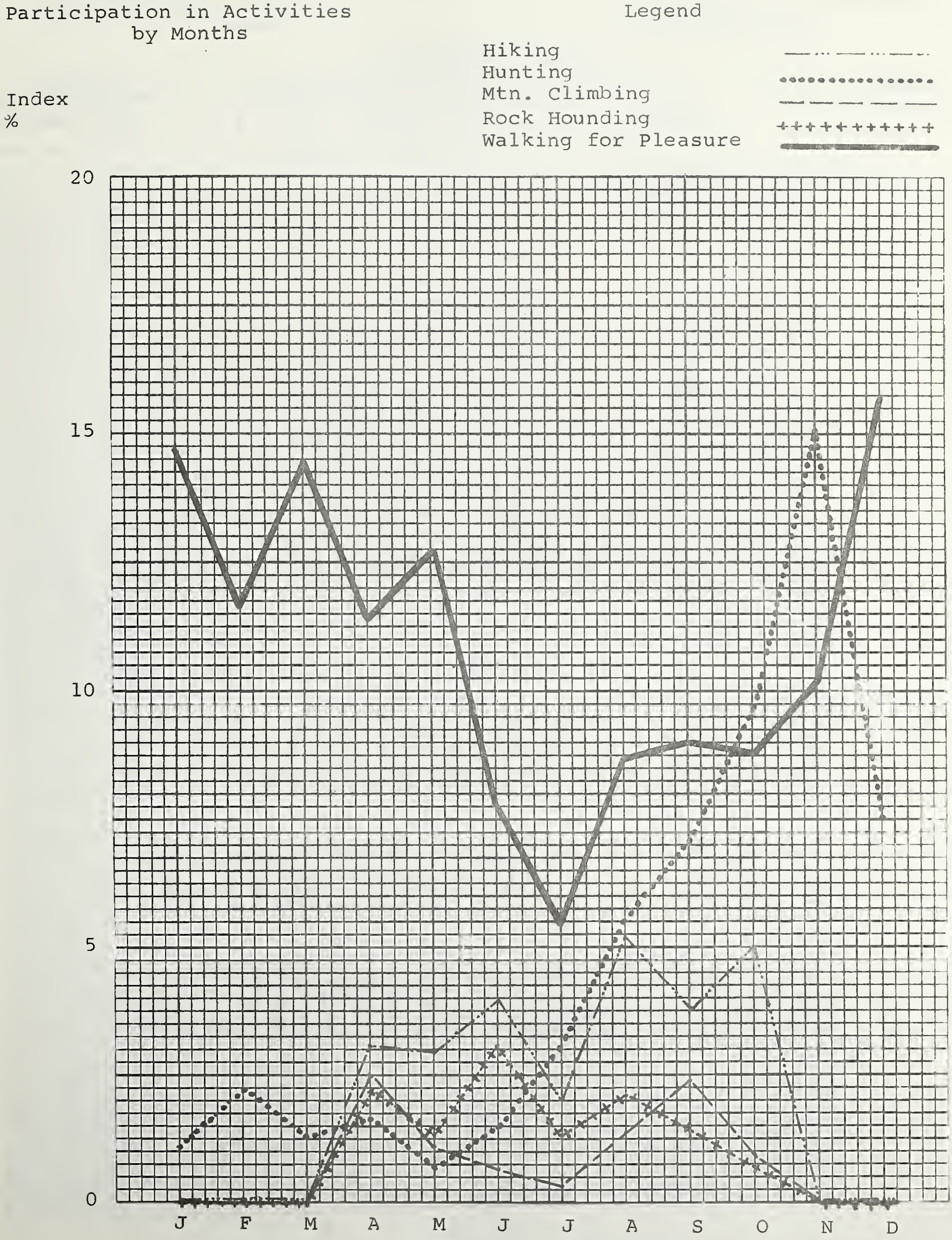
Participation in Activities
by Months



Water Oriented Activities

PLANNING REGION 8

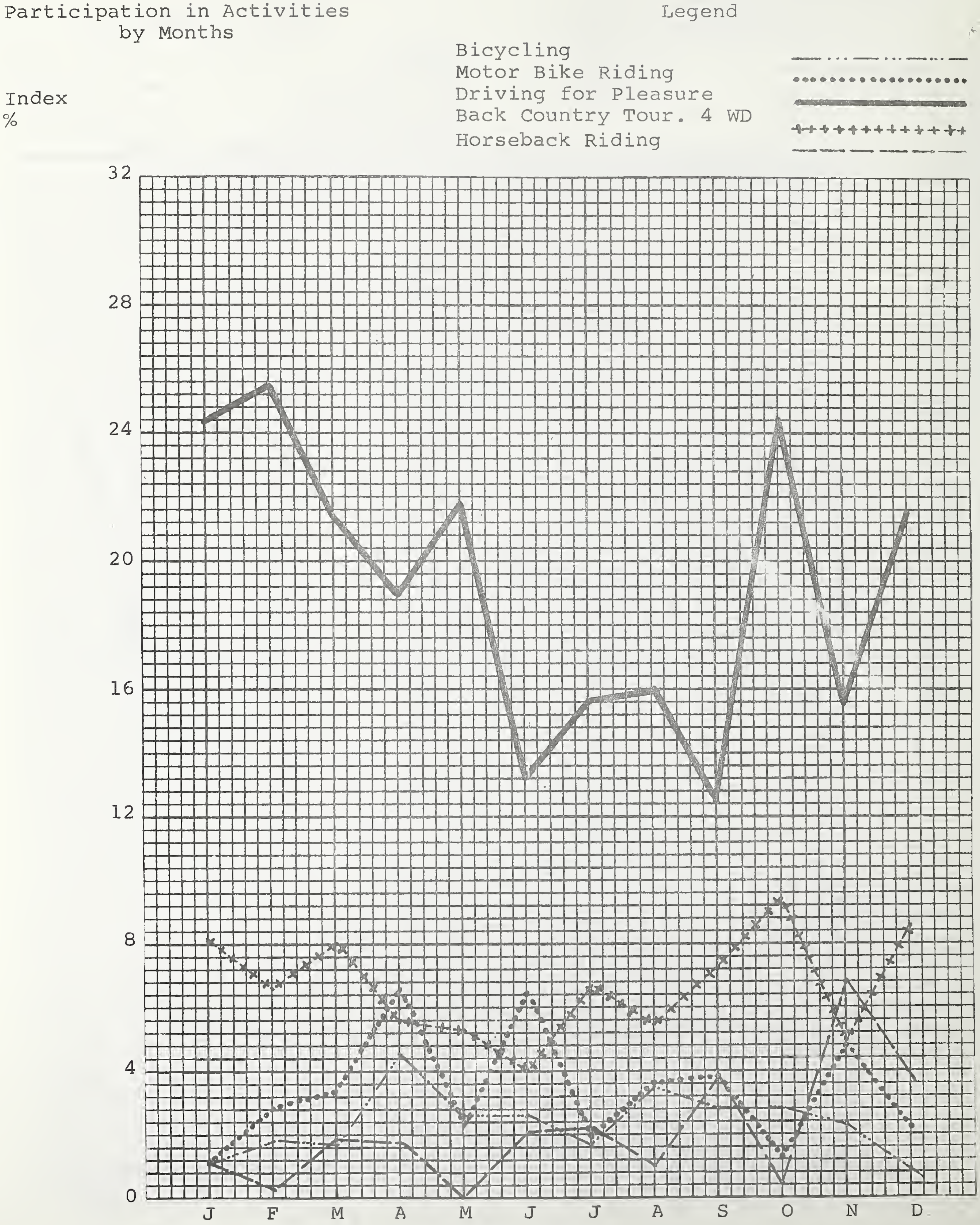
Participation in Activities
by Months



Traveling Activities with/without Vehicle

PLANNING REGION 8

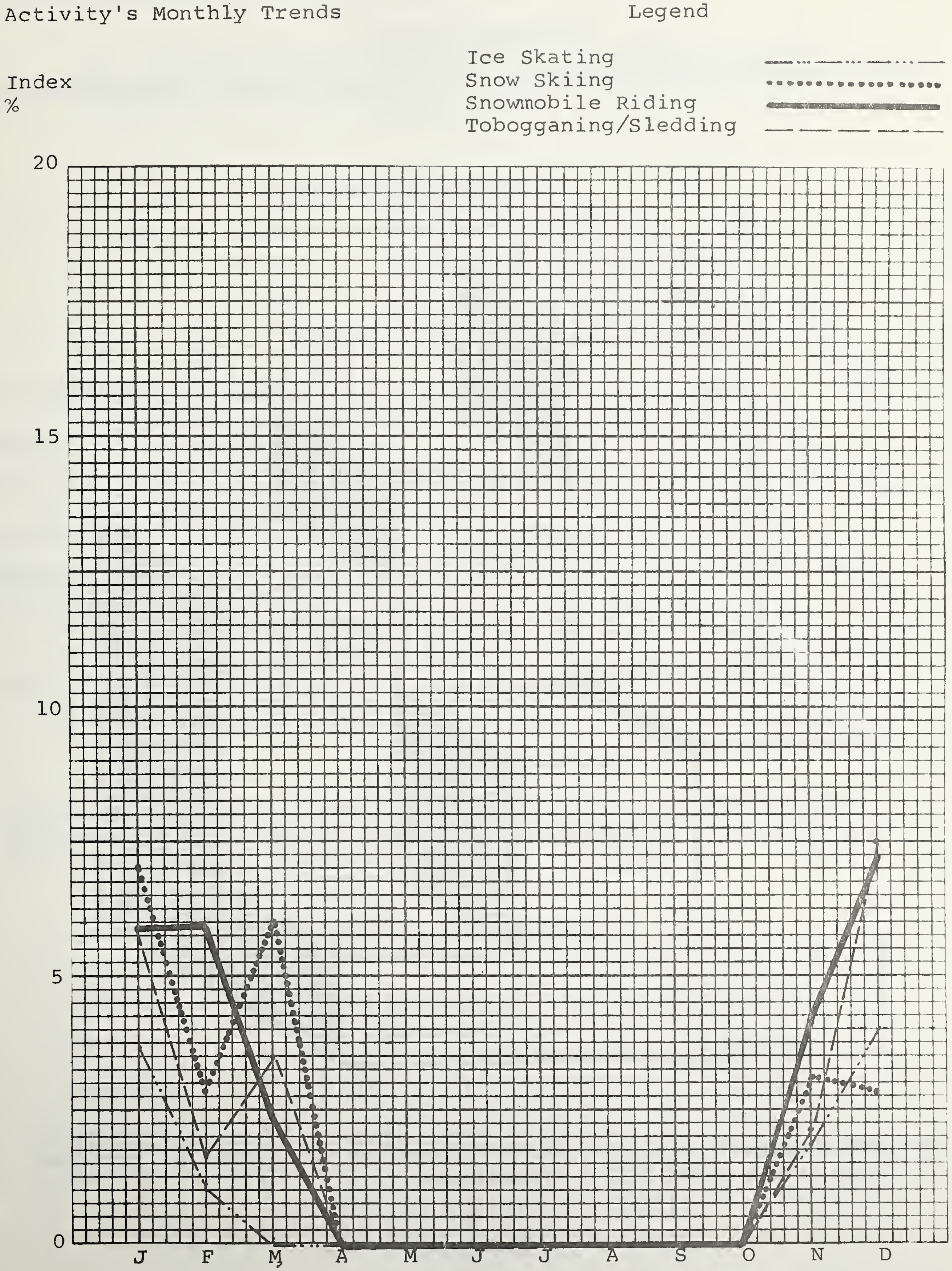
Participation in Activities
by Months



Traveling Activities - Vehicle Needed

PLANNING REGION 8

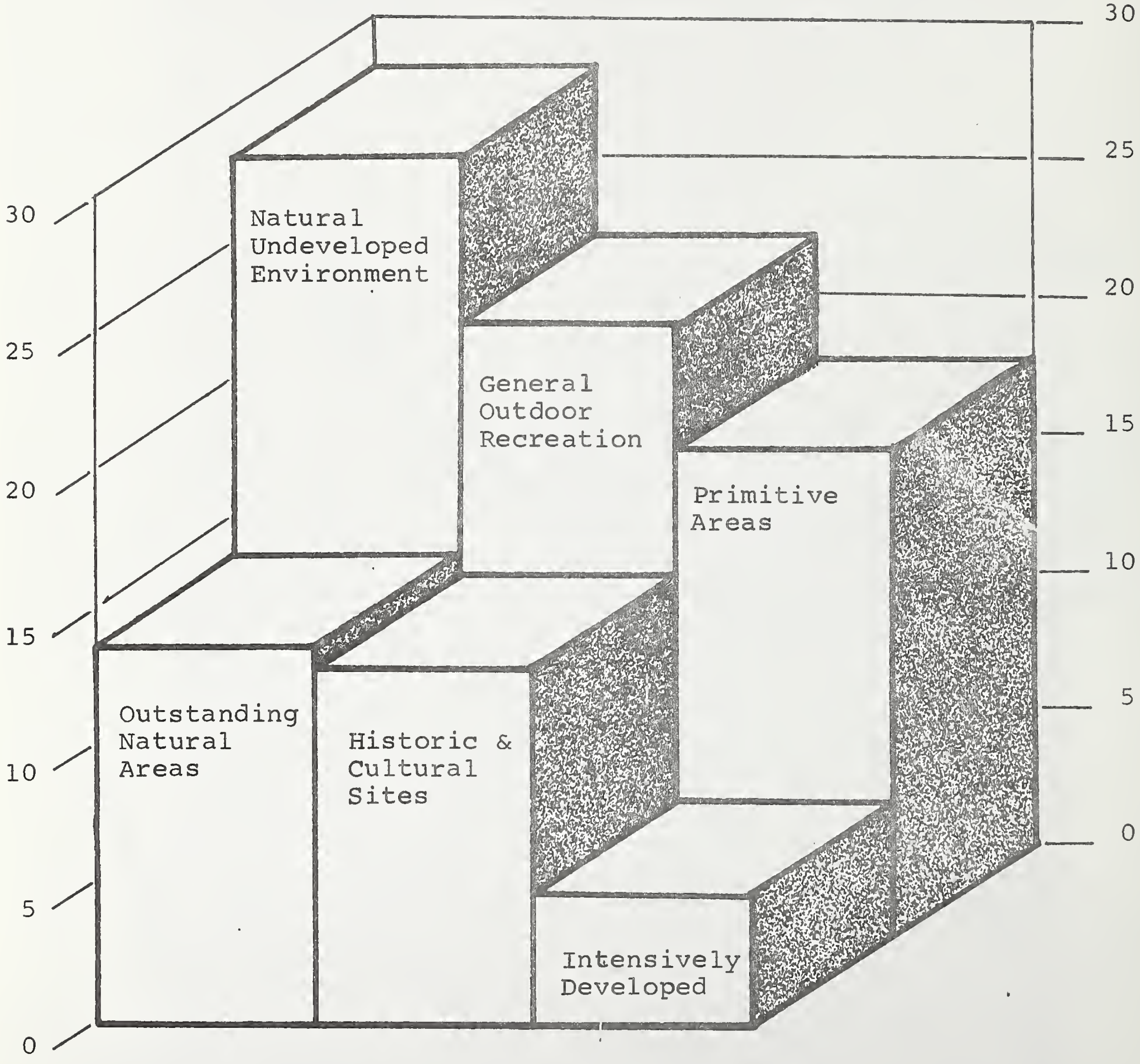
Activity's Monthly Trends



Winter Activities

PLANNING REGION 8

Preferences for Selected Types of Recreation Areas by Montana Residents
Yearly Totals



Numbers indicate a weighted percent based on the number of responses to first, second, and third preferences.

The following table tabulates facilities available for recreation in the municipalities of Boulder, Helena, Whitehall and Townsend.

MUNICIPAL FACILITIES

MUNICIPALITIES	1970 POPULATION	1972 PARK ACREAGE	Golf	Swimming Pool	Tennis	Multi-Purpose Courts	Baseball or Softball	Football	Children's Playgrounds	Large All Purpose Playfields	Picnic Areas	Designated Bike Trails	Indoor Recreation Centers	Facilities for the Handicapped	Special Accommodations for the Handicapped
Boulder	1,342	7													
	Facility Needs:				N		N		N						
Helena	22,730	560	x	x	x		x		x	x	x				
	Facility Needs:		N		N	N	N		N	N	N	N		N	N
Whitehall	1,035	N/A					x				x				
	Facility Needs:			N		N			N	N					
Townsend	1,371	2½	x	x			x	x	x	x	x				
	Facility Needs:		N		N	N							N	N	N
	Facility Needs:														
	Facility Needs:														
	Facility Needs:														

Recreation and parks expenditures, which include money for maintenance operation, personnel, acquisition, and development are tabulated below:

MUNICIPAL EXPENDITURES

	F. Y. 1970	F. Y. 1971	F. Y. 1972
Boulder	$ 3,488	$ 4,071	$ 4,249
Helena	177,432	201,623	228,293
Whitehall	N/A	N/A	1,500
Townsend	4,500	5,000	6,600

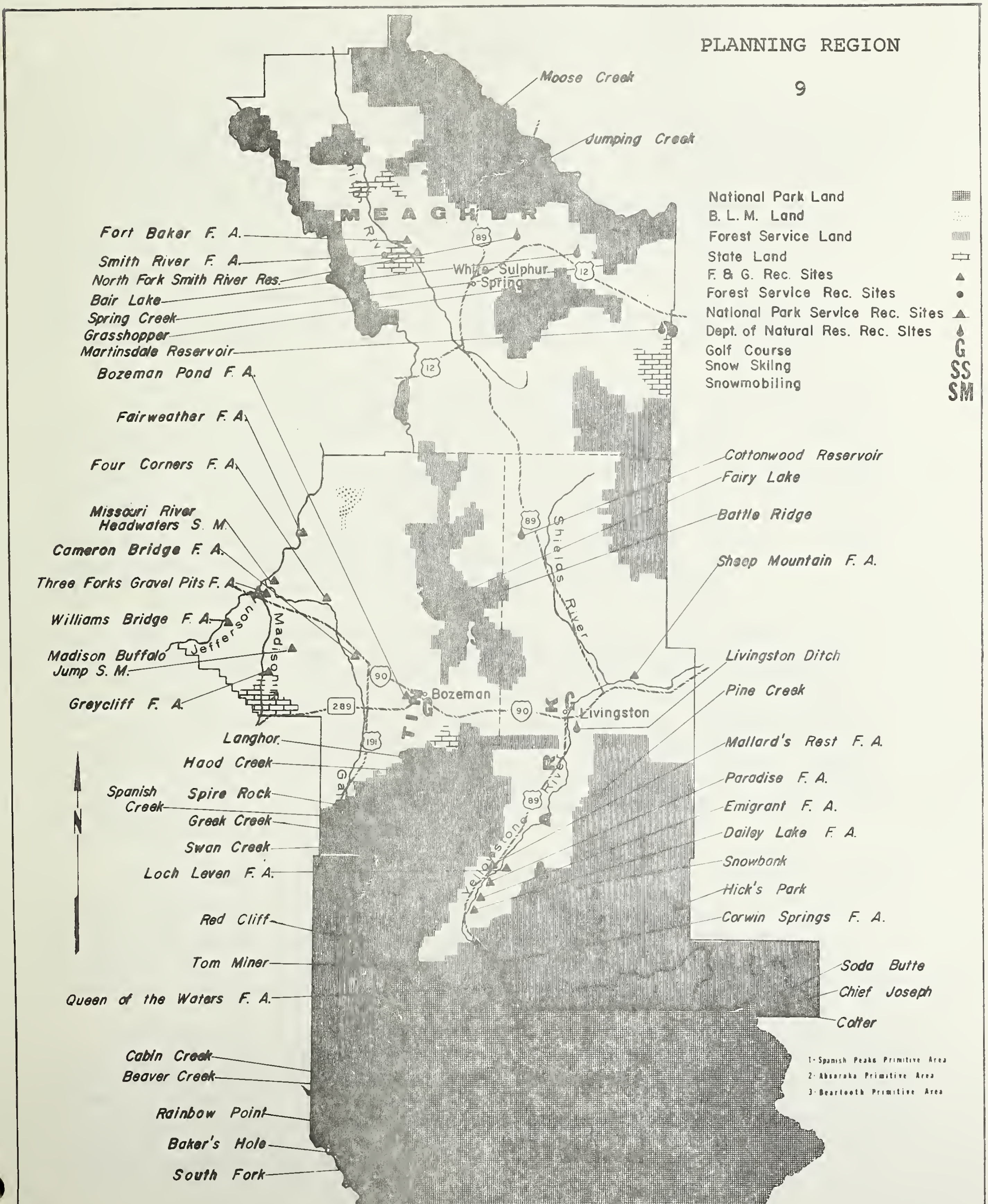
N/A = information not available

Boulder considers as its highest priority the development of a children's playground. Their most notable problem is being able to maintain their parks.

Helena lists its major priorities as the development of another golf course, baseball and softball field. State assistance, in the form of financing, is needed in Helena as in many other communities. More direct organization and supervision is required in the Helena park and recreation department. The major problem in the Helena park system is vandalism. Demands on the city budget present a maintenance problem if the park system is to be expanded.

Whitehall has increased its recreation opportunity by leasing land from the railroad for a baseball field. The town needs planning and financial assistance from the state. Their major problem is the lack of an overall program and definitive policies based on an analysis of community needs. Presently there is no person or group planning for an overall recreation program.

Townsend considers a need for additional golf facilities its highest priority. This need will soon be met through the leasing of land from the Bureau of Reclamation and Montana Department of Fish and Game, an 89 acres parcel which will be utilized as a golf course and recreation area. As is true of other Montana communities, Townsend's major problem in park and recreation development is a lack of sufficient funds.


PLANNING REGION
9
National Park Land
B. L. M. Land
Forest Service Land
State Land
F. & G. Rec. Sites
Forest Service Rec. Sites
National Park Service Rec. Sites
Dept. of Natural Res. Rec. Sites
Golf Course G
Snow Skiing SS
Snowmobiling SM
1- Spanish Peaks Primitive Area
2- Absaroka Primitive Area
3- Beartooth Primitive Area
MEAGHER
White Sulphur Spring
Bozeman
Livingston
Jefferson
Madison
Shields River
Yellowstone River
Smith Riv
Gal
89
12
90
289
191
Moose Creek
Jumping Creek
Fort Baker F. A.
Smith River F. A.
North Fork Smith River Res.
Bair Lake
Spring Creek
Grasshopper
Martinsdale Reservoir
Bozeman Pond F. A.
Fairweather F. A.
Four Corners F. A.
Missouri River Headwaters S. M.
Cameron Bridge F. A.
Three Forks Gravel Pits F. A.
Williams Bridge F. A.
Madison Buffalo Jump S. M.
Greycliff F. A.
Langhor
Hood Creek
Spanish Creek
Spire Rock
Greek Creek
Swan Creek
Loch Leven F. A.
Red Cliff
Tom Miner
Queen of the Waters F. A.
Cabin Creek
Beaver Creek
Rainbow Point
Baker's Hole
South Fork
Cottonwood Reservoir
Fairy Lake
Battle Ridge
Sheep Mountain F. A.
Livingston Ditch
Pine Creek
Mallard's Rest F. A.
Paradise F. A.
Emigrant F. A.
Dailey Lake F. A.
Snowbank
Hick's Park
Corwin Springs F. A.
Soda Butte
Chief Joseph
Colter
N

SUMMARY OF MAJOR RECREATION PROBLEMS

Region 9 possesses a great wealth of natural resources which provide outstanding recreation opportunities. These attractions, combined with the circumstances related to a gateway community to Yellowstone Park, are at the same time the source of most of the problems concerned with recreation. The dominant problem for the region is thus the intensified use of resources resulting from the drawing power which they possess. The problems are generally related to the southern portion of this elongated planning district, since the northern portion has comparatively low population, much less out-of-state visitation and still has a significant amount of natural areas which provide recreation.

Potential policy changes in the management of Yellowstone Park relative to overnight accommodations would have a corresponding and direct impact upon the regions adjoining. Preparations for this potentiality will involve coordinated planning on the part of the Park Service, the Forest Service, and the state and local governments, including the private sector. Since present use is generally ahead of present planning, it is imperative that the planning proceed in the very near future. It is recognized that considerable thought has already gone into this situation on the part of the National Park Service.

The establishment of the large and well publicized Big Sky Resort and recreation complex has a potential for attracting enterprises of a similar nature to the noted Gallatin Canyon area. While private enterprise can and does serve a very important role in providing for the needs of the recreationist, the potential for ultimately lessening the attractions of the region through uncontrolled growth must be noted also. Experiences elsewhere in the nation with the aftermath of intensive development in prime recreational areas merit the attention and vigilance of all concerned.

Environmental impact of recreational use is crucial in the canyon area. The Gallatin River for example as the primary drainage of the Forest and Canyon, is ultimately subjected to any pollution which may occur on any of the sub-drainages of the region. The potential for damage to this prime attraction underlies all other elements of the circumstances relating to recreation.

While the problems of today are extensive and serious, it is the future which appears to give even more concern. As of this period of time governmental capability at all levels to counteract these problems is extremely limited. Of the first order then is the need to achieve this power and authority and to properly vest it in a central body that can provide the necessary action to resolve these problems.

GEOGRAPHIC, POPULATION AND HISTORIC CHARACTERISTICS

The three counties comprising this rather long narrow region transect a considerable portion of the states geography and include some of the most significant and interesting recreation resources in Montana. Ranging from the West Entrance to Yellowstone Park and extending nearly to Great Falls, the region contains two renowned river valleys, the Gallatin and the Yellowstone and the north and west entrance to the park as well. The many attractions of the Gallatin Forest, the presence of primitive areas, together with the drawing power of the state university, combines to expose the region to a tremendous visitation from throughout many states.

Planning Region 9 is topographically mountainous with lengthy and broad intermountain valleys occurring generally in a north-south direction. The origins of most mountain ranges in this region can be traced to vertical displacement and tilting of sedimentary layered blocks of earth along fault lines. Major mountain ranges in the region include all or portions of the Little Belts, the Big Belts, the Castle Mountains, the Crazy Mountains, the Bridger Range, the Absaroka Range, the Madison Range and the Gallatin Range. Much of the Gallatin and Absaroka Ranges in the southern part of Region 9 are volcanic in origin. Many mountain peaks occur in the 8,000 to 11,000 foot range and most of the higher elevations were subjected to mountain glaciation during the various ice ages.

Most intermountain valleys were at one time overlain by ancient lakes and their soils originated from ancient stream and lake depositions. Major valleys are the Gallatin River Valley, the Shields River Valley, the Upper Smith River Valley and a portion of the upper Yellowstone River Valley. The headwaters of the Musselshell River originate in the Little Belt Mountains in the northern part of Region 9.

The natural vegetation in the intermountain valleys in Region 9 consists primarily of foothill grassland and sagebrush, except in the immediate vicinity of the major rivers. Here there are deciduous trees, primarily cottonwoods, willows and some alder mixed with meadow, often quite wet. Moving into the mountains, coniferous forest is encountered. This forest consists of Montane forest at the lower elevations, which includes Englemann spruce, alpine fir, and Douglas fir; lodgepole pine is found at the higher elevations. At the highest or more severe locations non-commercial species such as whitebark pine and limber pine are found along with alpine meadow.

Major rivers such as the Yellowstone, the Gallatin and the Smith form the basic water resources for this region. All are relatively deep, cold, fast flowing rivers which can provide for a multitude of uses. Both the Yellowstone and the Gallatin Rivers have their source in the high mountainous area of Yellowstone National Park. Other less significant rivers in the region are the Musselshell, the East Gallatin and the Shields. A small portion of the Madison River flows through part of Region 9 in the west. The primary water body in this region is Hebgen Reservoir which is located in the southern most part of the region in Gallatin County, near Yellowstone National Park.

The climate in Region 9 is similar to that in Region 8 just to the northwest, being subject to strong influences from both the west and east. The area receives spring and summer rains from the east; Pacific fronts with accompanying rain; and cold fronts from Canada. Chinooks are not as frequent in this region as in other nearby regions. Temperature extremes are not as great as on the plains to the north and east.

The population in Region 9 is 45,824 according to the official 1970 census. County totals are listed below.

REGION 9 POPULATION DISTRIBUTION

County	Persons
Gallatin	32,505
Meagher	2,122
Park	11,197
Region Total	45,824

Most of the region population is concentrated in the Bozeman vicinity and the lower Gallatin River nearby. A much smaller preportion is located along the Yellowstone River with a small concentration at Livingston. Major centers of population are at Bozeman (18,670), Livingston (6,883), Belgrade (1,307), White Sulpher Springs (1,200) and Three Forks (1,188). Approximately 56% of the population in Region 9, or 25,553 persons are urban dwellers. The Indian minority population is insignificant in Region 9. While most of the region lost population since 1960, Gallatin County with Bozeman as its center gained 25%. Meagher County lost 19% and Park County lost 15%.

Transportation facilities in this region consist of major airports at Bozeman and West Yellowstone. The airport at West Yellowstone is the primary air service facility for Yellowstone National Park. Rail facilities serve the area and major highways serve the region with Interstate 90 passing east and west through Bozeman and Livingston.

The economy of Region 9 is based to a large degree on the timber industry, agriculture, tourism and education. An abundance of national forest land makes it possible to support a substantial wood-using industry and the broad Gallatin River Valley is one of the best agricultural areas in Montana. Tourists are attracted to the Gallatin River, Big Sky resort and the upper Yellowstone River. Bozeman is a "gateway" city to Yellowstone National Park. Montana State University is located in Bozeman and is one of the two major state institutions of higher learing in the state.

Public land in Region 9 accounts for a substantial amount, (45.4%) of all land in the region. The following table indicates the percentage of public land in each county in Region 9.

PUBLIC LAND IN REGION 9*

County	Percentage	Square Miles
Gallatin	43.9	1,115
Meagher	36.3	854
Park	55.0	1,445
	45.4	3,414

*Does not include local government land.

The public land holdings in this region are administered as follows:

PUBLIC LAND ADMINISTRATION--REGION 9

Agency		Land (Acres)
Federal		
U. S. Forest Service		1,815,687
National Park Service		132,792
Bureau of Land Management		39,259
	Total	1,987,738
State		
Department of State Lands (not including state forest land)		168,470
Montana Fish and Game Department		18,764
Office of the State Forester		6,428
	Total	193,662
Local		
Community Parks		130

Regional Points of Interest

Madison Canyon Earthquake Area
A U.S. Forest Service visitors center is located at the site of the destructive 1959 earthquake which created nearby Quake Lake.

Bozeman
Home of Montana State University, this gateway town to Yellowstone National Park was named after John Bozeman who was a pioneer wagonmaster and guide. Dude ranches, ski and recreation areas are nearby including Huntley's "Big Sky."

Granite Peak
Montana's highest mountain at 12,799 feet is located in the rugged Beartooth Primitive Area.

Spanish Peaks Primitive Area; Absaroka Primitive Area
Two extensive areas of natural wilderness and beauty.

Historic Sites

Early commerce, mining, exploration and historic Indian sites are all represented in Region 9.

Three Forks of the Missouri is located at the junction where the Jefferson, Madison and Gallatin Rivers join to form the Missouri River headwaters. Here, in July 1805, Captain Clark and Merriwether Lewis concluded that the Missouri River had its beginning at this point. They named the above three rivers during their journey of exploration to the Pacific Ocean. Three Forks became a crossroads for early commerce and communication.

The Madison Buffalo Jump is a noteworthy prehistoric Indian buffalo kill site located at the edge of the Madison River Valley. This type of site was associated with one of the more frequently used methods of killing bison in this part of the west, before introduction of the horse.

At Fort Logan, 20 miles northwest of White Sulphur Springs, stands one of the few remaining original blockhouses in Montana. It was established in 1869 and was the army's main base for protection of nearby mining settlements and trade routes.

Below is a summary chart listing the major historic sites in Region 9.

HISTORIC SITES IN REGION 9

Historic Site	County	Significant Date	Significance
Crows & Coulter Battle Blackfeet	Gallatin	1808	Historic-aborg.
Fort Ellis	Gallatin	1867	Military
Gallatin City	Gallatin	1860's	Commerce
Henry's Fort	Gallatin	1810	Commerce
King Site	Gallatin	early-prehist.	Prehist.-aborg.
NR Madison Buffalo Jump	Gallatin	mid-prehist.	Prehist.-aborg.
NR-NHL Three Forks of Missouri	Gallatin	1805	Exploration
Castle Historic District	Meagher	1882	Industry
The Castle	Meagher	1892	Architecture
Copperopolis	Meagher	1866	Industry
Fort Howie	Meagher	1867	Military
NR Fort Logan and Blockhouse	Meagher	1869	Arch.-Military
Benson's Landing	Park	1870's	Transportation
Camp Ida Thoroughman	Park	1867	Military
Carbella Site	Park	Mid-prehist.	Prehist.-aborg.
Cooke City	Park	1876	Industry
Crow Agency I	Park	1869	Hist.-aborg.
Emigrant Buffalo Jump	Park	Mid-prehist.	Prehist.-aborg.
Emigrant Gulch	Park	1864	Industry
Hunter's Hot Springs	Park	1870	Social, Recreation
Mill Creek	Park	1870's	Transportation
Rigler Bluffs	Park	3000 B.C.	Prehist.-aborg.

NR = Site is listed on the National Register

NHL = Site is a National Historic Landmark

CHARACTERISTICS OF RECREATION USE

Leisure Time in Region 9

Residents of Region 9 ranked outdoor recreation activities a close second to indoor-spectator activities. Home-related activities were ranked third by residents of this region and social activities were ranked fourth. During the twelve-month period the greatest amount of leisure time available for Region 9 residents was indicated for December and February, and the least amount was available in August and September. Outdoor recreation followed a very similar pattern with the greatest amount of time spent in outdoor recreation activities available in December, February and July and the least amount in August.

Although the popularity of outdoor recreation activities was fairly consistent throughout the year, with minor ups and downs, other leisure time activities generally exceeded outdoor recreation in popularity for given months. Only in May, July, and November did outdoor recreation activities just barely exceed other leisure time activities in popularity. In the winter and spring self-improvement, social, and indoor play activities all generally exceeded outdoor recreation inpopularity. Self-improvement activities have the greatest variation in popularity throughout the year. Home-related activities reached a high in July, exceeded all other activities in October.

(For a more complete graphic account see Appendix.)

The Characteristics and Viewpoints of the Park User in Region 9

Although Region 9 is located close to Yellowstone National Park, residents of Montana were still the predominant users of facilities in this region, by 3 to 2. Of the 62% who were residents of Montana using facilities in Region 9, the greater percentage, or 16%, originated in Gallatin County in Region 9. Use of recreation facilities in Region 9 was high by recreationists originating outside of the region. 13% originated in Yellowstone County, 11% originated in Cascade County, and 10% originated in other counties surrounding Region 9. Park County within Region 9 accounted for 9% of the recreationists using facilities in this region. These facts indicate that Region 9 receives a high percentage of recreation use from visitors who live outside of the region. Region 9 popularity is also attested to by the fact that approximately 60% of the recreationists originating in Region 9 remain in this region to recreate. The most prevalent recreation party size encountered in the survey was two persons.

It was found that day use visits were about equal to overnight and more lengthy stays for recreationists using facilities in Region 9. As in only two other regions in the state, the surrounding natural beauty was given as the foremost reason for selecting a recreation site in Region 9. Nearly 50% chose a recreation site for that reason. The second most prevalent reason for chosing a recreation site in Region 9 was that it was a place in which the recreationist could engage in a desired activity. Facility conditions in Region 9 were identical with the state average. Environmental factors in Region 9 were rated on or above the state average. Sufficient space and the level of maintenance were rated above the state average.

Only 27% of all those respondents surveyed indicated a need for additional recreation facilities or activities at selected areas in Region 9. This would indicate a relatively high degree of satisfaction with the condition of facilities and the wide range of activities available for recreationists in this region.

Resting and relaxing was the most popular recreation activity engaged in by the recreationist in this region. Camping, fishing, walking for pleasure and picnicking were also popular as indicated by the frequency of participation. The most preferred activity as stated by recreationists in this region was fishing. The other activity showing a slight gain in preferrence over actual participation was hiking. Resting and relaxing, camping, and walking for pleasure all dropped slightly in stated preferrence.

Implications

1. Since day use visits approximate overnight and more lengthy stays, accommodations for both types of use should be provided for on an approximately equal basis. Intuitively, the provision of facilities for more lengthy stays should be considered because of the proximity of Yellowstone National Park and its subsequent overflow of visitors.

2. Agencies providing recreation facilities in this region should be aware that much use is by residents from out of this region, with Yellowstone National Park undoubtedly a primary drawing factor. Also important is the Big Sky development along the Gallatin River. Although present resident use outweighs non-resident use, in the future this trend might be reversed.

3. Because the choice of a recreation area is influenced to a high degree by the natural beauty of an area, this factor should be considered when development of future recreation areas are contemplated. Region 9 has the potential to provide areas at which there is a high degree of surrounding natural beauty. The provision for activities which can be engaged in at these various sites should also be a consideration. Like the other two regions in the state where natural beauty is important, there are similar recreation user characteristics. Many recreation areas in this region appear to be serving visitors who come long distances, expect to remain for relatively long periods in areas of high scenic beauty, and participate in a variety of activities.

4. The condition of facilities and of environmental factors are already at a reasonably high level for selected areas in the

region. Supporting this is the fact that relatively few indicated a need for additional facilities or activities at selected areas in the region.

5. The high incidence of resting and relaxing in Region 9 as well as camping, walking for pleasure, and picnicking indicates a need for facilities to accommodate these activities and other forms of passive recreation. Other activities which should receive an above average consideration are: fishing and hiking. The high incidence of passive recreation activities should be noted.

The Montana Resident

Characteristics of the resident respondents can be found in the Appendix. These data include the respondents marital status, sex, age, household status, employment, vacation allowance, available time and general health.

Tables following, indicate the frequency of participation in various activities by those surveyed, and is a measure of their popularity in Region 9.

Little correlation exists between the recreation activities residents engaged in and those indicated as most preferred, except for driving for pleasure, again the number one activity in both categories. Walking for pleasure and sightseeing ranked second and third in activities actually participated in but fell off slightly in stated preferrence. Picnicking declined considerably and playing outdoor games, bicycling, hiking, and motor bike riding all declined to a high degree from activities engaged in, to activities preferred. Fishing gained significantly in the preferrence rating and hunting, camping, horseback riding and snowmobiling all gained greatly in the stated preferrence. The above five activities were not engaged in to any high degree, but were rated quite high in the stated preference of recreationists. It is difficult to determine exactly the cause of such a discrepancy between the popularity of activities actually engaged in, and those stated as preferred in such a large number of cases.

The most popular of water-oriented activities was fishing which reached a peak in mid-summer and early fall. Its popularity in region 9 was not exceeded at any time throughout the year by other water-oriented activities, although swimming and motor boating came close to fishing in popularity in the summer months.

The most popular of winter activities was snowmobiling and was only exceeded in November by snowskiing in popularity. Sightseeing was the most popular recreation activity in its category, and reached a peak in March, but decreased considerably during the summer months and early fall. Picnicking generally exceeded sightseeing in popularity during the summer months and camping nearly reached the popularity of sightseeing at that time.

Walking for pleasure was by far the most popular activity of its nature for residents in Region 9, reaching a peak in the fall and decreasing in the hot summer months. Its popularity was not exceeded during the year, not even by hunting which in most other regions normally exceeds walking for pleasure in the fall. Hunting did reach its normal peak in the fall, however, for Region 9 residents. Hiking was very popular through the spring, summer, and fall for residents of this region. Driving for pleasure far exceeded other activities where a vehicle is needed, and reached a peak of popularity in the winter and early spring dropping off in the summer time. Other activities in this category such as bicycling, motor bike riding horseback riding, and backcountry touring, all remained relatively constant in popularity throughout the year. (For a detailed graphic account see Appendix.)

Natural environment areas at which there is a minimum of development were rated very high as most preferred by residents of Region 9. Second most popular were the general outdoor recreation areas such as state parks, national forests, and areas where campgrounds and other facilities are available. The third most popular were the primitive areas rating nearly as high as the general outdoor recreation areas. These would be areas which are characterized by natural wild conditions and the lack of roads, such as the Spanish Peaks primitive area or the Absaroka primitive area. The fourth most preferred type of area was the outstanding natural areas such as Yellowstone National Park. Very close to these in popularity were the historic and cultural sites. (See Appendix for further details.)

Implications

1. Driving for pleasure is indicated as being the most popular activity in Region 9. Associated sightseeing is also rated high in this region. Although new roads to accommodate driving for pleasure are certainly not necessarily desirable. facilities to enhance driving for pleasure and sightseeing on existing roads should probably be made available. The potential would seem to be high for these two activities especially in the southern part of the region. Traffic congestion problems could possibly arise in the future as overflow from Yellowstone Park is dispersed over part of this region.

2. Walking for pleasure is also very important in Region 9. Facilities such as walkways and rest stops should be provided at various points of interest, such as places along the Gallatin or Yellowstone Rivers, Hebgen Lake, and Hyalite Canyon.

3. Facilities for such activities as picnicking and camping should also be provided in the more scenic areas. Facilities for horseback riding and hiking might be provided and probably be associated with picnicking and camping.

4. Much attention should be given to fishing and hunting for Region 9 residents. These activities were given a high stated preferrence by resident respondents.

5. Water-oriented activities are not quite as available in Region 9 as they are in other regions, with the exception of fishing. Hebgen Lake is relied upon for most activities, as well as Harrison Lake.

6. Winter activities seem to be quite popular with residents of this region and the surrounding mountainous and forested areas which receive a heavy continuous snowfall offer a high potential for these winter activities. In particular, snowmobiling and snowskiing are the most popular.

7. Children's activities which should receive greater attention are bicycling and playing outdoor games.

8. Residents of region 9 prefer natural undeveloped environment areas and primitive areas to recreate in, although a sizable percentage also desire general outdoor recreation areas with normal developed facilities. Access to the more remote areas of national forests and areas of wild and primitive nature should be made available to these residents. Camping, boating, swimming and other facilities should continue to be developed at key scenic locations. These for instance would be along the Yellowstone River, the Gallatin River including the east and west forks, the Shields River, Sixteen Mile Creek, and the Smith River in the northern part of the region. The Crazy and Bridger Mountains would also be areas for future development. Interpretation and preservation of historic and cultural sites in the area should also be considered as there is a considerable interest in these types of areas.

Problems and Potentials for Recreation In Region 9

There is a high potential for driving for pleasure in Region 9, especially in the southern areas leading into and near Yellowstone National Park. In addition, in the north of the region also offer possibilities. Region 9 is highly scenic in many areas making driving for pleasure and sightseeing enjoyable, but facilities such as rest stops, picnic shelters, and interpretation could further enhance these activities.

Camping is a very popular activity in this region and is especially popular in the southern areas near access routes into Yellowstone National Park. Yellowstone National Park has a great influence over recreational activities in the area. Facilities for group camping appear to be lacking to some extent in this region. Problems of pollution have occurred at scattered undesignated sites in the region and future use may be concentrated in specified larger areas because of this pollution. A day use area has been established at Hebgen Lake to satisfy certain demands for day use type activities; this is in addition to the regular campgrounds which are there. The Gallatin River in particular is an area where pollution at scattered sites will lead to future concentration of usage. Enforcement of such activity is the major problem. The private sector is accommodating camping to an extent, but site location is a factor which could spell success or failure for these private investments. The leasing of forest service land to the private sector for campgrounds is occurring to a greater extent than in the past.

It would appear that dispersal of recreation use is needed in particular in Region 9 to offset concentrations near Yellowstone. More publicity is needed for the lesser used sites in the region and nearby regions. Presently, overnight use in Yellowstone National Park is excessive, and sewage, garbage disposal, and vandalism are increasing to a great extent. These problems may also occur outside the part to a greater degree as overflow is felt. An extension of the season for use of the park has been helpful to ease some of the present pressures. There has been a tremendous increase in winter use, especially regarding snowmobiling. There are no plans to phase out park campgrounds presently, and the 2800 or so campsites will be maintained. Undoubtedly the reservation system, even for back country areas, will have to be utilized to a greater degree in the future.

Yellowstone National Park is planning a study of backcountry sites as part of its long range goal of deterimining the best possible use of its resource. Closely related will be a Gallatin River study to determine the capacity of land in the Gallatin River area. Both of these are high impact areas.

On much Forest Service land, destination sites will continue to be developed in Region 9, but transient bedroom-type camping will not be encouraged by the Forest Service. At the more popular areas on Forest service land only designated developed campgrounds will be provided.

A major problem in Region 9, as in many other regions in the state, is that public access to public land is being denied by many private land owners. Areas should be identified and solutions undertaken.

An additional problem in planning Region 9 is that of water-rights and water diversion. Adequate water flowage is needed for many water-oriented activities, and often this water is not available because of use for other purposes. Activities oriented around water at the more popular recreation areas should be a priority use for available water. Hyalite Reservoir south of Bozeman is a valuable resource but much water is taken at the height of the recreation season for community use and irrigation. This is of course detrimental to recreation use. A further problem is access to rivers. Much river and lake frontage is in private ownership and in many cases public access to major streams is quite limited.

Winter sports are very important in Region 9 and major skiing facilities are located at Bridger Bowl northeast of Bozeman and near Kings Hill in the far north of the region. Skiing may be enhanced further by the addition of another tow at Bridger Bowl. Snowmobile trails exist south of Bozeman and south of Hebgen Lake. A highly popular trail connects Bozeman and West Yellowstone.

Inventory of Facilities

Federal and State Recreation Facilities

In Region 9 the major public agencies providing recreation areas, facilities, and land for public use are the U. S. Forest Service and the Fish and Game Department. Of course, use of sites of the National Park Service at Yellowstone National Park in Wyoming have a great impact on Region 9 recreation. The Bureau of Land Management also has some public land available for use in Region 9. Major areas with selected facilities are summarized below:

FEDERAL AND STATE RECREATION AREAS - REGION 9

Federal	Picnic Units	Camping Units	Swimming	Fishing	Boat Ramp
U. S. Forest Service (as of March 1, 1974)					
Gallatin N.F.					
Abbot	0	2	0	X	0
Aspen	0	1	0	X	0
Baker's Hole	0	7	0	X	0
Battle Ridge	7	10	0	0	0
Beaver Creek	0	6	0	0	0
Big Creek	0	5	0	X	0
Blackmore	0	3	0	X	0
Buffalo Horn	0	1	0	0	0
Cabin Creek	0	15	0	X	0

Federal	Picnic Units	Camping Units	Swim-ming	Fish-ing	Boat Ramp
Gallatin N.F. (continued)					
Cascade	0	2	0	X	0
Cherry Creek	0	5	0	X	0
Chief Joseph	0	6	0	0	0
Clarks Fork	2	0	0	0	0
Colter	0	23	0	0	0
Eagle Creek	0	4	0	0	0
Earthquake Lake Inlet	0	0	0	X	X
Emerald Lake	0	3	0	X	0
Fairy Lake	7	8	0	X	0
Falls Creek	11	0	0	X	0
Greek Creek	0	14	0	X	0
Hicks Park	7	23	0	X	0
Hood	8	10	X	X	X
Horse Butte Lookout	2	0	0	0	0
LaDuke Springs	4	0	0	X	0
Langhor	6	5	0	X	0
McGill	0	6	0	X	0
Moose Creek Flat	2	0	0	X	0
Palace Butte	0	2	0	X	0
Pine Creek	0	24	0	X	0
Pine Creek Picnic Ground	3	0	0	X	0
Portal Creek	0	2	0	X	0
Quake Lake	0	0	0	X	X
Rainbow Point	0	86	X	X	X

Federal	Picnic Units	Camping Units	Swim-ming	Fish-ing	Boat Ramp
Gallatin N.F. (continued)					
Red Canyon	0	3	0	0	0
Red Cliff	0	2	0	X	0
Ross Peak	2	0	0	0	0
Rumbaugh	0	3	0	X	0
Rumbaugh Ridge	0	5	0	X	0
Shields	0	2	0	X	0
Snowbank	3	11	0	X	0
Soda Butte	0	21	0	X	0
South Fork	4	35	0	X	0
Spanish Creek	0	6	0	X	0
Spire Rock	2	15	0	X	0
Spring Creek	0	3	0	X	0
Squaw Flats	3	0	0	X	0
Swan Creek	0	13	0	X	0
Tom Minor	0	12	0	0	0
United West Yellowstone Campground	0	244	X	X	0
West Boulder	3	3	0	X	0
Lewis and Clark N.F.					
Grasshopper	1	11	0	X	0
Jumping Creek	1	10	0	X	0
Moose Creek	1	5	0	X	0
Spring Creek	0	10	0	X	0
Total	79	687	3	43	4

State	Picnic Units	Camping Units	Swimming	Fishing	Boat Ramp
Montana Fish and Game Department					
Bozeman Pond FAS	18	0	0	X	0
Cameron Bridge FAS	2	0	0	X	0
Corwin Springs FAS	0	0	0	X	0
Dailey Lake FAS	21	30	0	X	X
Emigrant FAS	4	0	0	X	0
Fairweather FAS	0	0	0	X	0
Fort Baker FAS	0	0	0	X	0
Four Corners FAS	0	0	0	X	0
Greycliff FAS	15	15	0	X	0
Loch Leven FAS	9	20	0	X	X
Madison Buffalo Jump SM	5	0	0	0	0
Mallards Rest FAS	3	2	0	X	0
Missouri River Headwaters SM	13	5	0	X	X
Paradise FAS	4	0	0	X	0
Queen of the Waters FAS	0	0	0	X	0
Sheep Mountain FAS	4	0	0	X	0
Smith River FAS	5	5	0	X	0
Three Forks Gravel Pits FAS	0	0	0	X	0
Williams Bridge FAS	0	0	0	X	0
Total	103	77	0	18	3
Total of selected facilities Region 9	182	764	3	61	7

MAJOR RECREATION RESOURCES

The recreation resources of this region are so numerous, varied and entensive that it is difficult to convey the full range of opportunity in the written narrative. While it is a region of limited population, the recreational attractions are such that the area sustains an enormous out-of-state visitation annually with the portent of an indeterminate increase in the years to come. While other regions may lack adequate opportunity and basic attractions, the singular problem for this region is the management of these resources in such a manner that the resource is protected and the visitor is provided a reasonable satisfaction of his expectations.

Approximately one half of the region is forested with the Gallatin Forest dominating Gallatin and Park Counties. Meagher County contains a small portion of the Helena Forest, and a somewhat larger portion of the Lewis and Clark Forest.

Mountain ranges represented in the region are the Big Belts in the Helena Forest, the Little Belts in the Lewis and Clark Forest, and in the Gallatin Forest, all or portions of the following: Beartooth, Absaroka, Crazy, Bridger, Gallatin, Madison, and Henry's Lake Mountains.

GALLATIN NATIONAL FOREST

The major portion of the 1,705,841 acres of the forest are located in this region. When private forest lands are included in the tally, nearly 2,000,000 acres of forest are found in the region with a consequent impact upon the potential for recreation. As of this period, there has been no inventory or identification of those lands especially suitable to recreation.

The Gallatin Forest is involved in the proposed Yellowstone-Teton Complex Plan, which includes Yellowstone and Teton National Parks, and the Custer, Shoshone, Teton, Targhee, and Gallatin National Forests.

The Gallatin Forest is unique in many aspects and has many attractions some of national interest including the following:

Proximity to Yellowstone Park
Headwaters of three of Montana's Blue Ribbon Trout Streams
Gallatin Elk Herd
Prominence of the winter snowmobile activity at West Yellowstone
The numerous dude ranches, guides and outfitting services
The resort industries on and adjacent to the forest
Madison River Canyon Earthquake area
Unique geological pheonomena
Three primitive areas
Scenic undeveloped back country
A higher rate of visitation than any other forest in the region
Field laboratories for a number of universities and colleges

RECREATION

The outdoor recreation attraction on the Gallatin National Forest comes from a combination of three systems - mountain ranges, river, and access systems. Each of these systems represent resources and uses that contribute to the needs of the people. Each is unique in its own way and helps emphasize the role of the Gallatin Forest as a major provider of recreation experiences available to publics.

The Forest is used recreationally on a year-round basis with three specific periods of heavy use. The period from June to September contains most of summer camping, hiking, fishing, boating, picnicking, and traveling public. October through November is primarily the hunting season, while December through April sees the greatest use in winter sports activities. The Gallatin has the opportunity to provide widely varied recreation experiences, from highly developed recreation sites to wilderness.

Opportunities for highly developed, convenience-type facilities are available on the outer approach areas to the Forest. There is a lack of adequately developed facilities for destination-type campgrounds. For the past several years the Forest has attempted to provide development sites to meet the growing needs of the public. Recent reductions in appropriated funds have curtailed this activity. As a result, many development sites are not completed. Private investments are now answering some of this need with convenience-oriented campgrounds. The Forest recently issued a special use permit for a 500-unit campground near West Yellowstone to help alleviate this need.

Backcountry or dispersed area recreation by backpackers, families, private horse owners, and others is increasing. The abundance of scenic roadless areas provides this opportunity.

Many of the Gallatin's outdoor recreation opportunities are related to a water influence. Spaces for these opportunities are almost fixed and finite in the Forest resource. Competition for these spaces is acute.

Homesite subdivisions adjacent to the Forest boundaries are becoming more numerous. Their commercial value lies with being next to public-owned lands. The result is more National Forest acreage closed to public access due to residential development on adjacent private land. Some permitted recreation residences on National Forest land are becoming incompatible with other public use. Measures are being pursued to phase out this use when opportunity presents itself and where conflicts are evident.

Visitor information services provided by the Forest include the Madison River Canyon Earthquake story and campfire programs with interpretive services at Bakers Hole campground and Cooke City. The West Yellowstone Interagency Aerial Fire Control Center is developed as an interpretive site to help explain the "fire story" as it relates to forest fire control measures. A number of other interpretive sites portray the historic or geologic points of interest on the Forest.

The Gallatin Forest has numerous attractions that are national destination objectives. Some of these are:

1. The Madison River Canyon Earthquake Area is a 37,800-acre classified geological area dedicated to the preservation of the awesome effects of the August 1959 earthquake for public enlightenment and scientific study. A huge landslide blocked the Madison Canyon and created a large Earthquake Lake. Faults with 20-foot vertical displacement and segments of ruined or destroyed buildings give witness to the forces of geologic mountain building and instability of the earth's crust.

2. Three of the five entrances to Yellowstone National Park are on or adjacent to the Forest. The Park gateways at West Yellowstone, Gardiner, and Cooke City are a destination for many national visitors and create an impact on National Forest and privately-owned land in their influence corridors. Cooperative planning and development with Yellowstone National Park is of primary importance in order to carry out full service to the people.

3. Gallatin Petrified Forest is a unique area not yet under full protection and management. Redwood and other tree stumps and trunks standing upright in volcanic conglomerate formations are outstanding sights in this area. Attrition of petrified wood has occurred due to the uncontrolled removal by commercial interests and rock hounds. A true inventory of this unique resource has not been made. The petrified forest lies within and north of Yellowstone National Park on the Gallatin Range.

4. Bridger Bowl is a major regional ski area. It is the highest use ski area in Montana, and is a high avalanche hazard area. A great deal of effort is required to assure that public safety measures are properly handled.

5. The Madison, Gallatin and Yellowstone Rivers are classified "blue ribbon" trout streams by the State of Montana. This results in a focusing of use and interest from trout anglers in and outside of Montana.

6. Hebgen Lake is a popular destination objective for people throughout the U. S. The lake's proximity to Montana cities, Yellowstone National Park, and the metropolitan areas of Provo,

Salt Lake and Logan, Utah, as well as the population centers of southern Idaho invites heavy use. The impact on this large lake impoundment by destination campers is significant. The lake is a 13,000-acre impoundment created in 1915 by the Montana Power Company under a Federal Power Commission license. The lake has a total of 57 miles of shoreline made up of wooded bays and inlets. Forty-eight miles are in public ownership and nine miles are in private ownership. Of the 220 permitted recreation residence sites on the Forest, 76 of them are occupying some of the most desirable shoreline on Hebgen Lake.

7. Favorable snow conditions and terrain combine to make the Gallatin Forest a destination of national renown for snowmobile users. Two of the largest rallies on the international snowmobile tour are held at West Yellowstone. An early season December rally usually draws more than 4,000 people and 300 entrants. The late season March rally attracts 6,000 people with over 400 entrants from foreign countries and most of the states. Guided tours on the Forest snowmobile trails are conducted regularly. The 120-mile "Big Sky Snowmobile Trail" between West Yellowstone and Bozeman attracts both in-State and out-of-state visitors. This heavy use has resulted in some management problems. Restrictions on snowmobile traffic have been necessary, particularly where this use relates to wintering big game, plowed logging roads, timber plantations, and municipal watersheds.

8. Resort developments on private lands adjacent to the Forest boundaries are a continuing influence on Forest planning and development. The year-round resort being developed by Big Sky is now influencing the values and development of private land in the Gallatin Canyon. Lionhead Ranch on the Main Boulder River is another example of a large resort development adjacent to Forest land. Most of the ten lodges and resorts under special use permit on the Forest change ownership quite regularly. Resort and dude ranch operations using Forest land but located on private land is a large industry on the Gallatin Forest. Impacts from horse use operating from these ranches complicates management.

Developed Recreation Sites

There are a total of sixteen developed recreation sites on the Gallatin National Forest, providing primarily camping and picnicking, but also affording a base from which to explore and use the adjoining lands. Many of the present sites are in need of upgrading, however, finances are not available for this at this time.

Additional developed sites are needed on the forest. While the public demand for these facilities is insistent and is increasing, the first responsibility is the long term effect upon the resource base. Careful planning is underway for such eventual development though finances are not presently forthcoming for construction.

WILDERNESS

The Forest has three primitive areas: The Absaroka, Beartooth and Spanish Peaks. These and other areas on the Forest are being proposed and studies for classification under the Wilderness Act.

A recent inventory of roadless and/or undeveloped areas on the Gallatin indicates approximately 37% of the grass acreage falls in this category. This is in addition to the existing primitive areas. Tentative wilderness study areas have been identified from this inventory. A high quality wilderness resource potential appears to be present in some of this area. Final selection of any new wilderness study areas will be made after the completion of the public involvement program.

Primitive areas are managed under the Wilderness Act which directs that they will be maintained and protected for future generations. Native plant and animal communities are allowed to develop naturally.

Ecological succession will operate freely.

Horse trails evolved through the years in the Forest's primitive areas either by following the track of wild animals or by planned design. They are a varied collection, some being rather primitive and some of a highly developed standard not in keeping with present-day wilderness direction.

Spanish Peaks Primitive Area. This primitive area and proposed wilderness is located entirely within the Gallatin National Forest in the northern end of the Madison Mountain Range. It is approximately 25 miles south of Bozeman. Secondary roads from U.S. Highway 191 and Montana Highway 287 lead to the boundaries.

Creeks radiate out of the Spanish Peaks mostly in a north, and east direction. They eventually drain into the Gallatin River. About 80 percent of the area consists of timber stands mixed with grassy ridges and mountain meadows. Most of the timber is non-commercial. Elevations range from 6,000 feet near the Gallatin River to the 11,015 foot Gallatin Peak. There are 25 peaks over 10,000 feet high. Alpine glaciation has carved out spectacular features consisting of steep rugged peaks, knife edge ridges and numerous cirques. Several "rock glaciers" are known to exist in this primitive area. Nearly all the cirques contain lakes with catchable fish.

All big game species, including bighorn sheep and mountain goat, common to the Gallatin frequent this area. Water production is high. Mineral potential is low according to U. S. Geological Survey and the U. S. Bureau of Mines.

Heavy horse use in certain overused portions of the area is damaging the wilderness resource. Overuse by man and pack stock is most prominent around the high elevation lakes. Early and late season horse use is damaging trails. Heavy day use occurs consistently at Lava Lake and at the Spanish Creek end-of-road facility.

Absaroka Primitive Area. The area is located in the Absaroka Mountain Range. It abuts Yellowstone National Park on the south and includes portions of the Hellroaring, Buffalo Fork and Slough Creek drainages. These streams flow from north to south across Yellowstone National Park into the Yellowstone River. The topography varies from very rough and rugged peaks and ridges to relatively flat, broad valleys on parts of the major drainages. High open plateaus are also characteristic of the area. Elevations vary from 6,000 feet near Hellroaring Guard Station to 10,218 feet on Roundhead Butte.

Most of the area is well forested with lodgepole pine being the primary species in association with Engelmann spruce, alpine fir, and whitebark pine. The nearest road access is from Jardine, Montana, six or seven miles distant. The rest of the access is by means of horse and foot trail only.

Visitors may observe such big game species as deer, elk, moose, bighorn sheep, mountain goat, black and grizzly bear, and an occasional buffalo. Big game hunting, in season, is one of the primary uses of this primitive area.

This primitive area has a large capacity for recreation pack and saddle stock. The presence of horses in meadows and semi-open, flat to rolling topography is non-damaging to the existing wilderness resource.

Beartooth Primitive Area. The Beartooth Primitive Area (Gallatin portion) is located north and east of Cooke City, Montana in the Beartooth Mountains. Elevations vary from 7,400 feet near Cooke City to 12,799 feet on Granite Peak, the highest point in Montana. Topography is rough and rugged. Access to the area is limited to foot and horse trails. The Beartooth Mountains contain some of the oldest rock formations in the North American Continent. The area is characterized by its massive rock formations, pocket lakes, and subalpine, alpine, and tundra features. Glaciers are still existent in parts of this area. The area has a very short growing season with travel being normally limited to about July 1 to September 30.

Most of the area is above timberline. Available forage for recreation stock is limited. A delicate balance exists between vegetation and soil. Water is extremely abundant via numerous lakes, streams, and springs. The fishing in most lakes is excellent.

There are no strong drainage patterns. Some of the streams flow east and some west and still others in a southeast or southwest direction. The stream bottoms on the whole are not deeply cut and many lakes nestle in the rock outcrop and snowfields.

In a relatively short distance the landscape changes from snowfield and mountain peak to forest and meadow. The country is relatively free of constructed trails and aids to the horse traveler. It is much better suited to the backpacker and hiker, and less suited to the horse traveler. The Russell Creek Trail constructed through the Primitive Area is built to a higher standard than presently called for in wilderness.

ACCESS AND TRANSPORTATION

Access to large tracts of Forest land is blocked by private lands between County, State, or U. S. designated highways and the Forest Boundary. The Bridger Range, the Crazy Mountains, and the Yellowstone Valley are prime examples of this problem.

The access problem within the Forest is generally not as acute. The cooperative attitude on public access historically maintained by the Burlington Northern, Inc. is largely responsible for this. Burlington Northern has never restricted the public's access.

Off-road vehicles are beginning to have significant impacts on the Forest. Some damage is occurring on the fragile, high altitude meadows by indiscriminate motor vehicle use. Horse use continues to increase. Some trails will require extensive tread repair as a result of the use.

Snowmobile use on the Forest has grown steadily over the past few years, particularly in the West Yellowstone area. Local area snowmobile traffic averages about 400 vehicles per week for the winter season with as many as 120 vehicles per day to Two Top Mountain during the weekend. The ratio of snowmobile winter use on West Yellowstone trails to summer hiker use is almost 100 to one. Trails which are now proposed for identity as Forest system snow trails include a 120 mile Big Sky Trail between Bozeman and West Yellowstone and a 17-mile Buck Ridge Trail in the Gallatin Canyon. Both of these trails also cross Burlington Northern lands.

Solid waste disposal is a problem on portions of the Forest. Cooperative efforts have and are being made with local interests and other agencies for sanitary landfills in the West Yellowstone, Gardiner, Cooke City, Big Timber and the Gallatin Canyon. The volume of solid wastes created by the increased use of back-country and concentration areas (other than developed sites) is also caused for concern. The "pack in" and "pack out" policy is being emphasized to help remedy this situation.

(The information on the Gallatin National Forest has been provided through the courtesy of the Office of the Forest Supervisor.)

SMITH RIVER

The Smith River, in west central Montana, has long been known to a relative few as an area of unique beauty and solitude. The upper reaches are dominated by the timbered slopes of the Belt Mountains and the broad grasslands of the Smith River Valley. On downstream, the river cuts a deep gorge through the limestone strata to form spectacular walls of many hues through which the river twists and turns before emptying into the Missouri near Ulm, Montana.

Recreational opportunities along the Smith River are varied and include floating, fishing, sightseeing and camping, all of which are influenced strongly by the remote semi-wilderness nature of the area.

Access to the Smith River is limited by a marginal road system and by a lack of developed access points and recreation areas on the river. For this reason, floating provides the maximum opportunity to enjoy the unique beauty of the area. The floating season, however, is short and is influenced by water levels and flows. Floating usually begins about the first of July and continues through mid-August, at which time water levels become too low for easy passage over shallow areas.

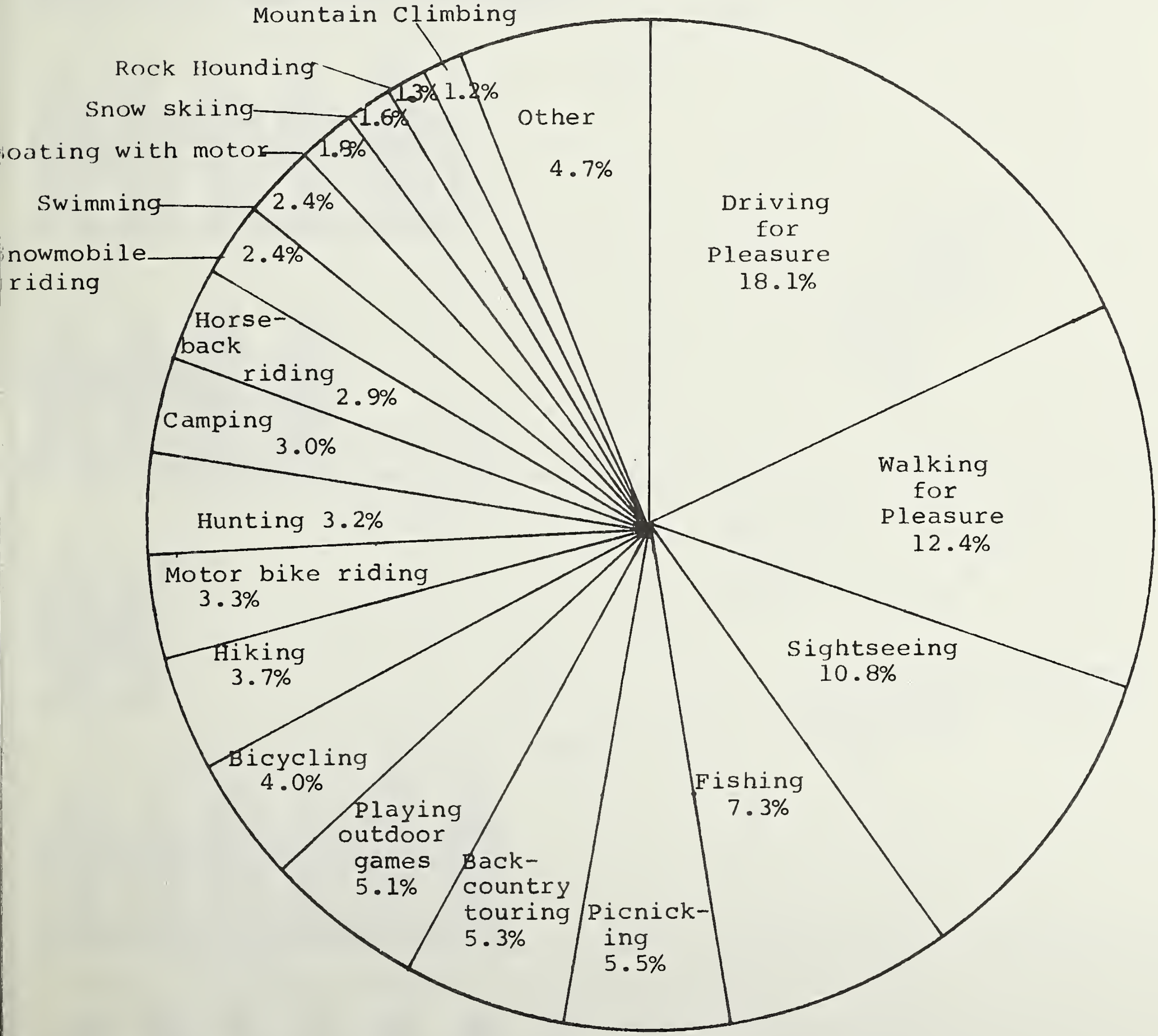
Additional access and public recreation area development will be necessary for other than float-oriented recreation to play a major

LEWIS & CLARK FOREST

While only a small portion of the forest is within the region, it is significant in terms of several recreational uses. The forest is an excellent winter sports area as evidenced by the popularity of the Kings Hill facility for skiing and for related winter sports as well. Most of the use of Kings Hill is from without the region, drawing from much of the east and central portion of the state. Hunting in the Lewis and Clark is very important locally, as well as general dispersed recreation throughout the year. As usage in the southern portion of the region intensifies from out-of-state visitation, this area will be used increasingly by the regional resident and will become a factor in the longer range planning for the area.

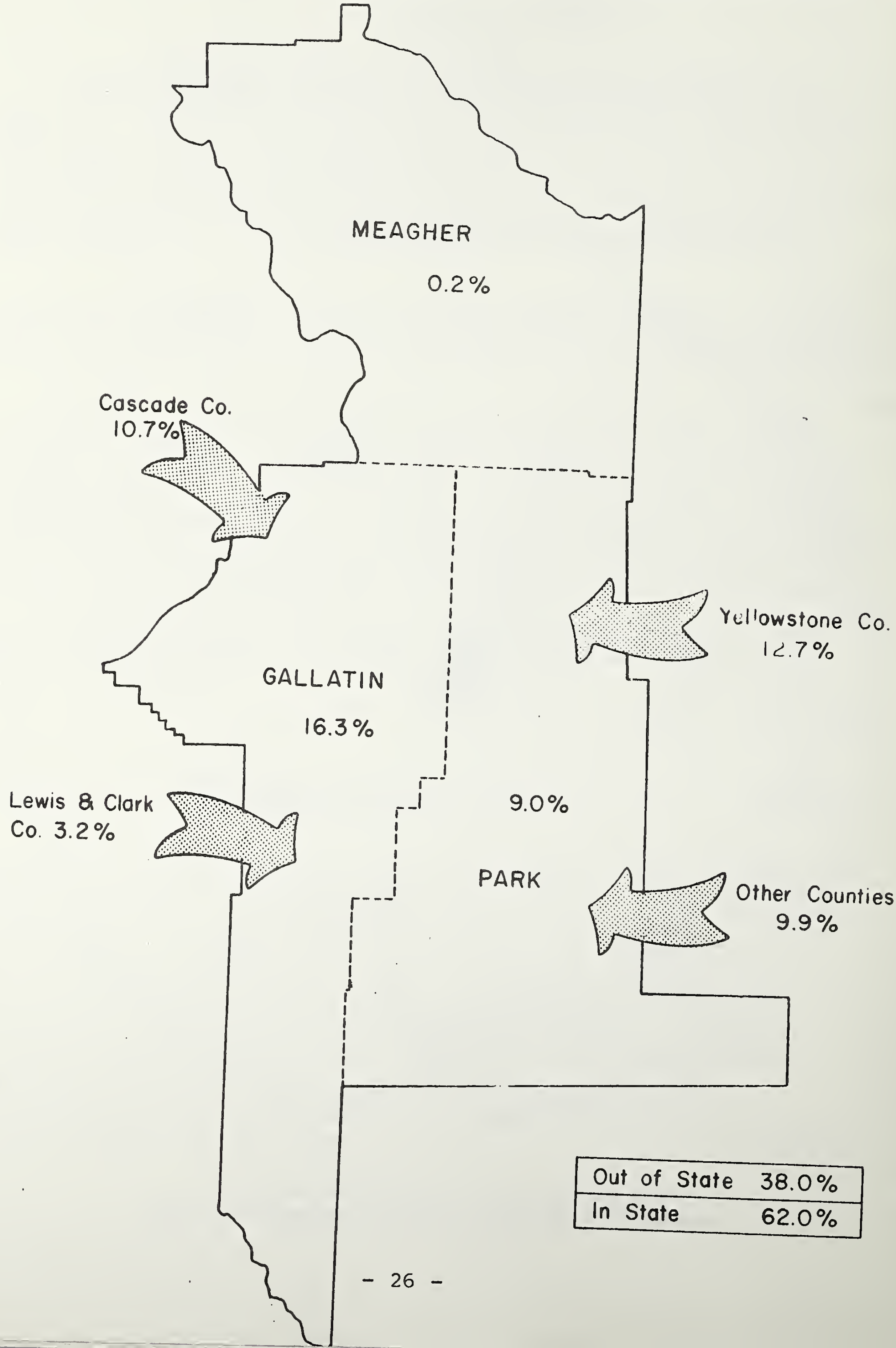
PLANNING REGION 9

Frequency of Participation in Selected Outdoor Recreation Activities by Montana Residents - Yearly Average



The above percentages represent an activity's portion of all recreation time.

ORIGIN OF PARTIES RECREATING IN PLANNING REGION 9

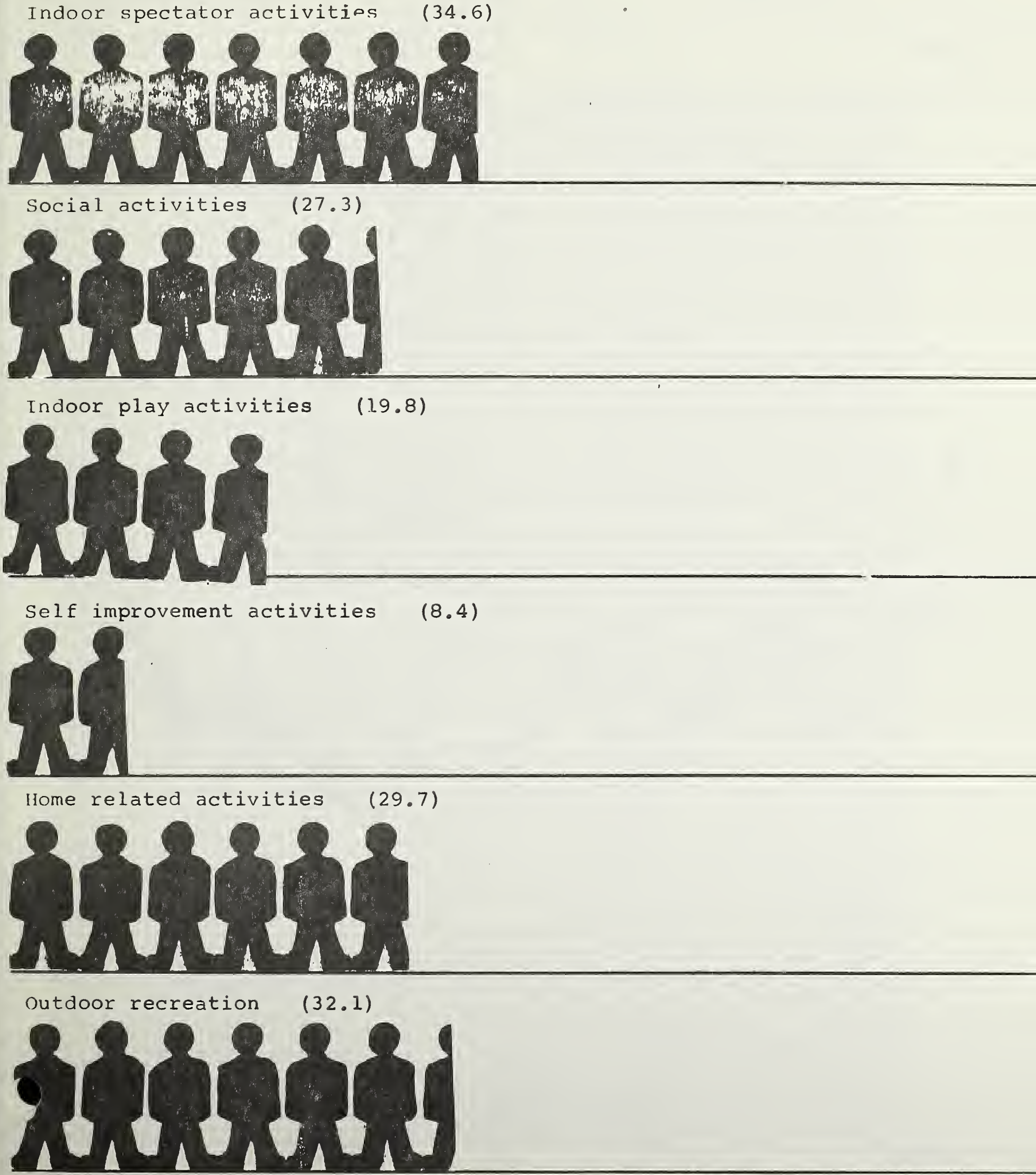

MEAGHER
0.2%
Cascade Co.
10.7%
GALLATIN
16.3%
Yellowstone Co.
12.7%
9.0%
PARK
Lewis & Clark
Co. 3.2%
Other Counties
9.9%

Out of State	38.0%
In State	62.0%

PLANNING REGION 9

Leisure Time Activities Engaged in by Montana Residents - Yearly Average

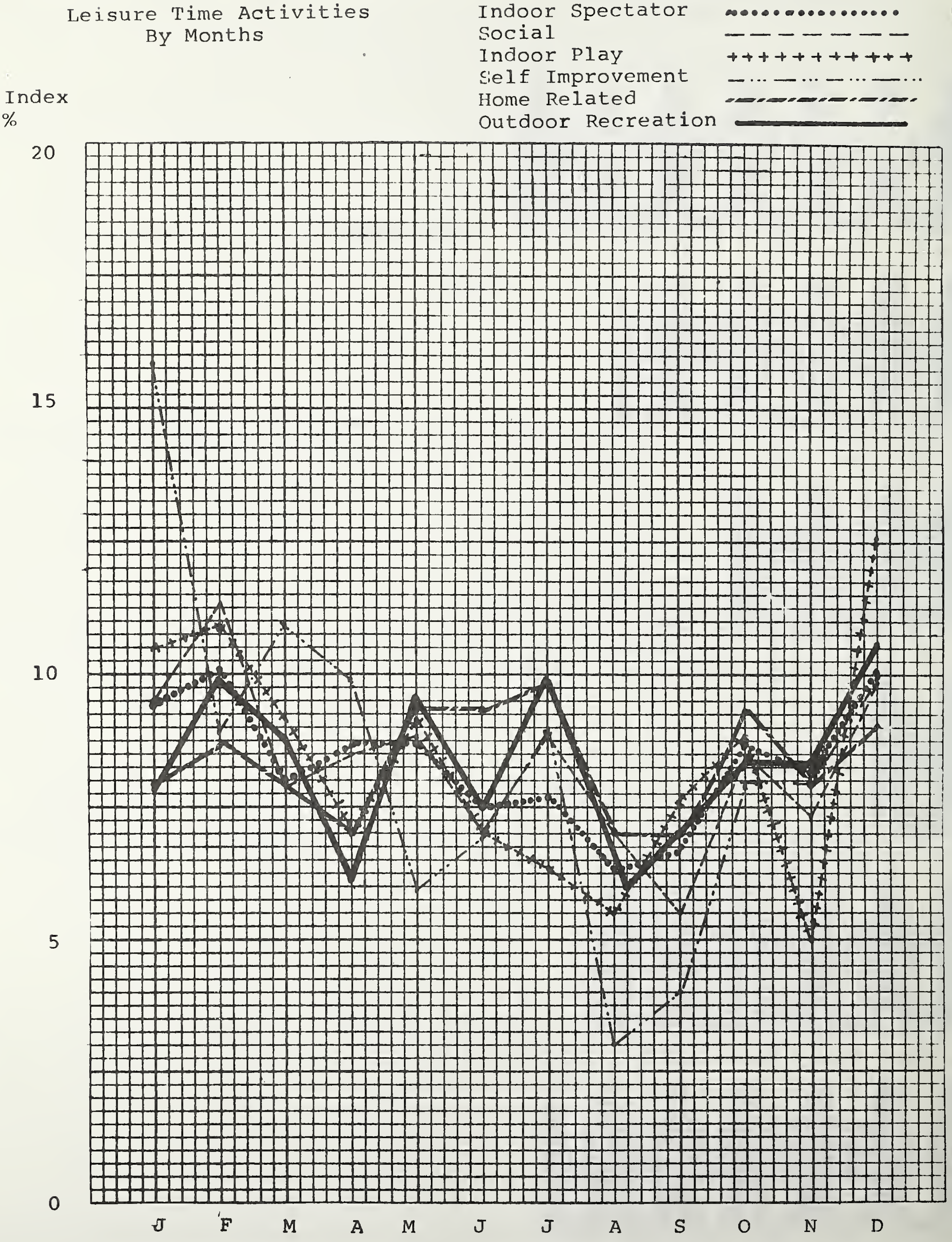
ach man equals 5 responses



Above numbers indicate the average monthly responses from surveyed residents in the planning region.

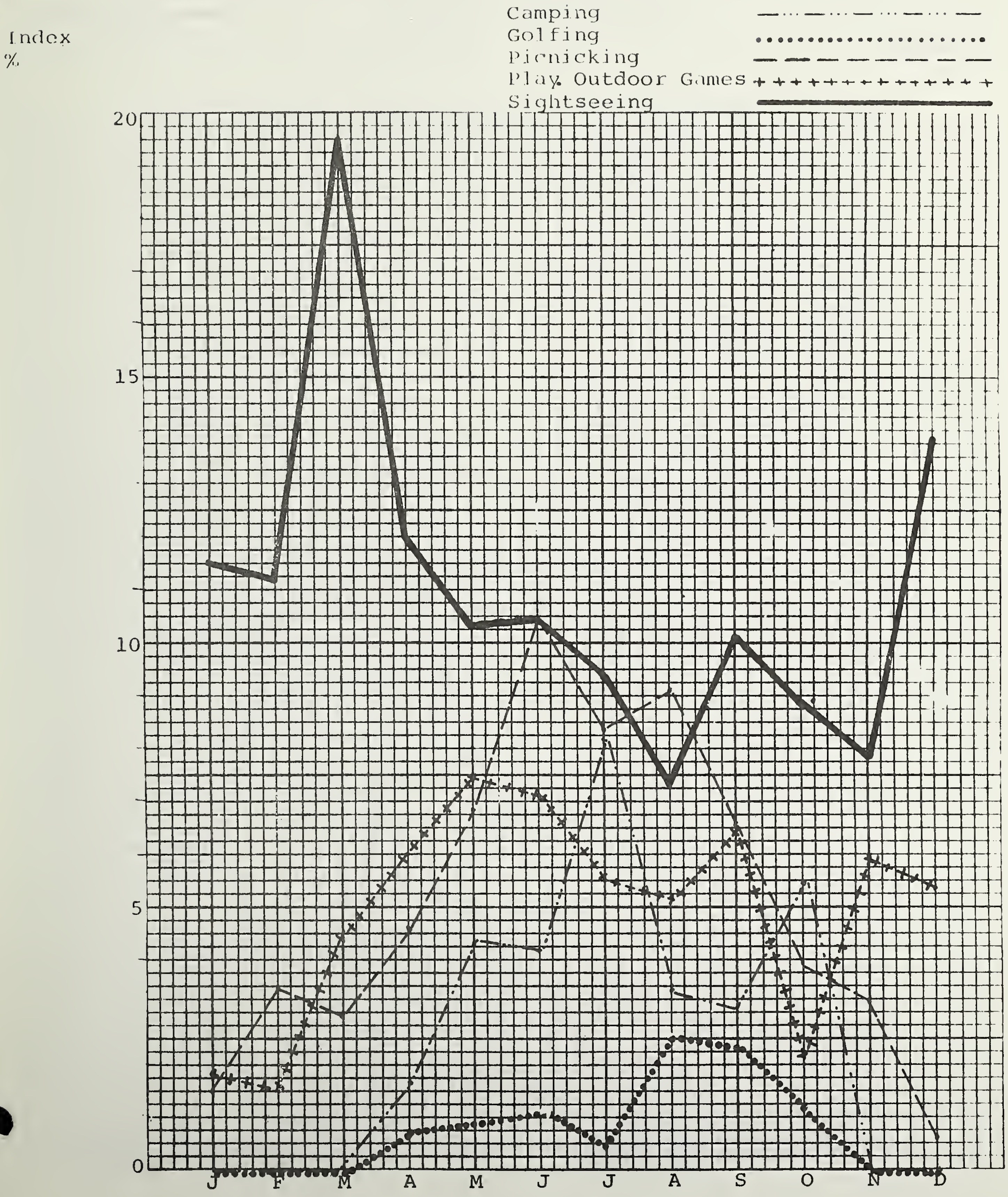
PLANNING REGION 9

Leisure Time Activities
By Months



PLANNING REGION 9

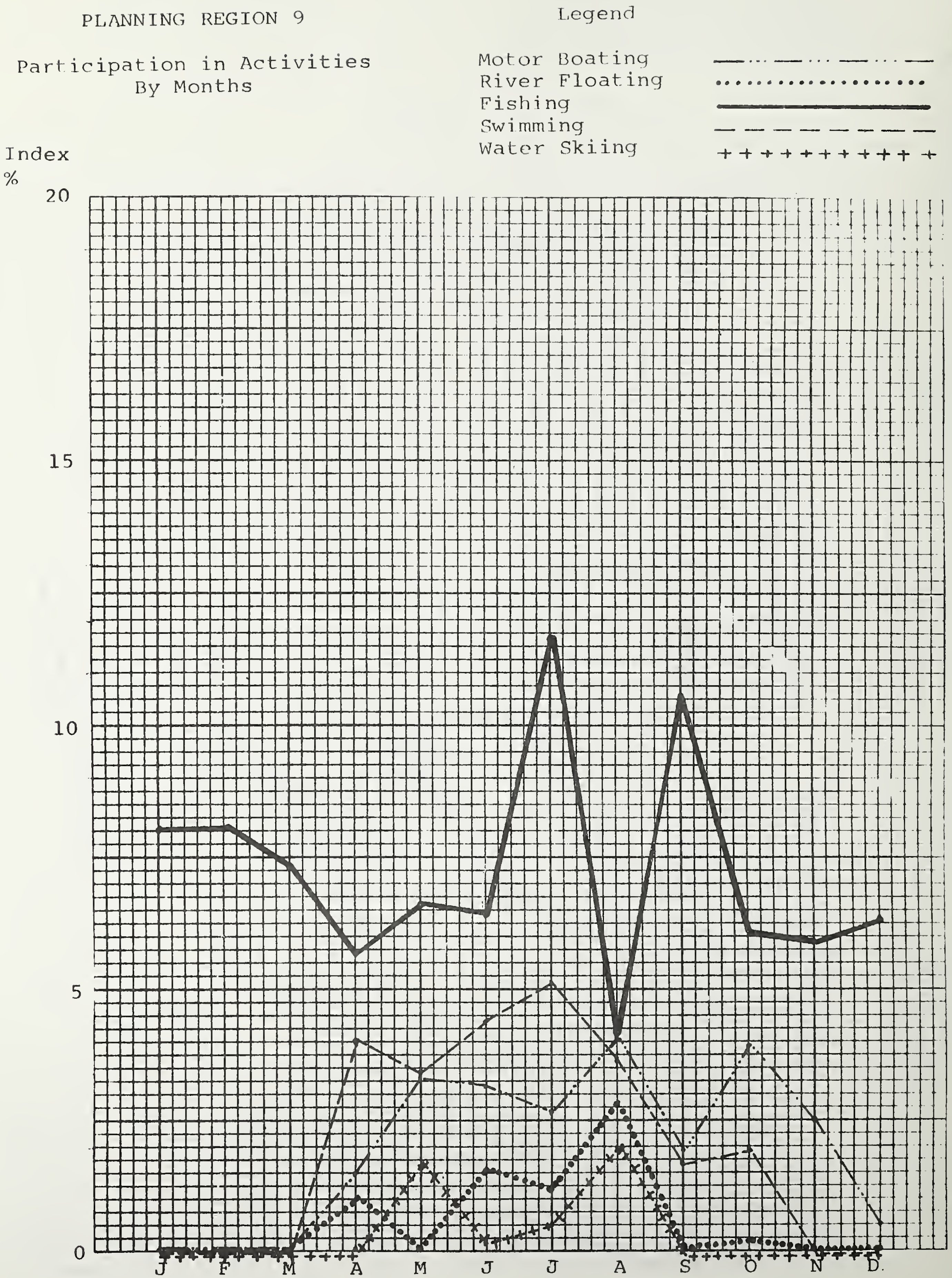
Participation in Activities
By Months



Activities Concentrated in One Area

PLANNING REGION 9

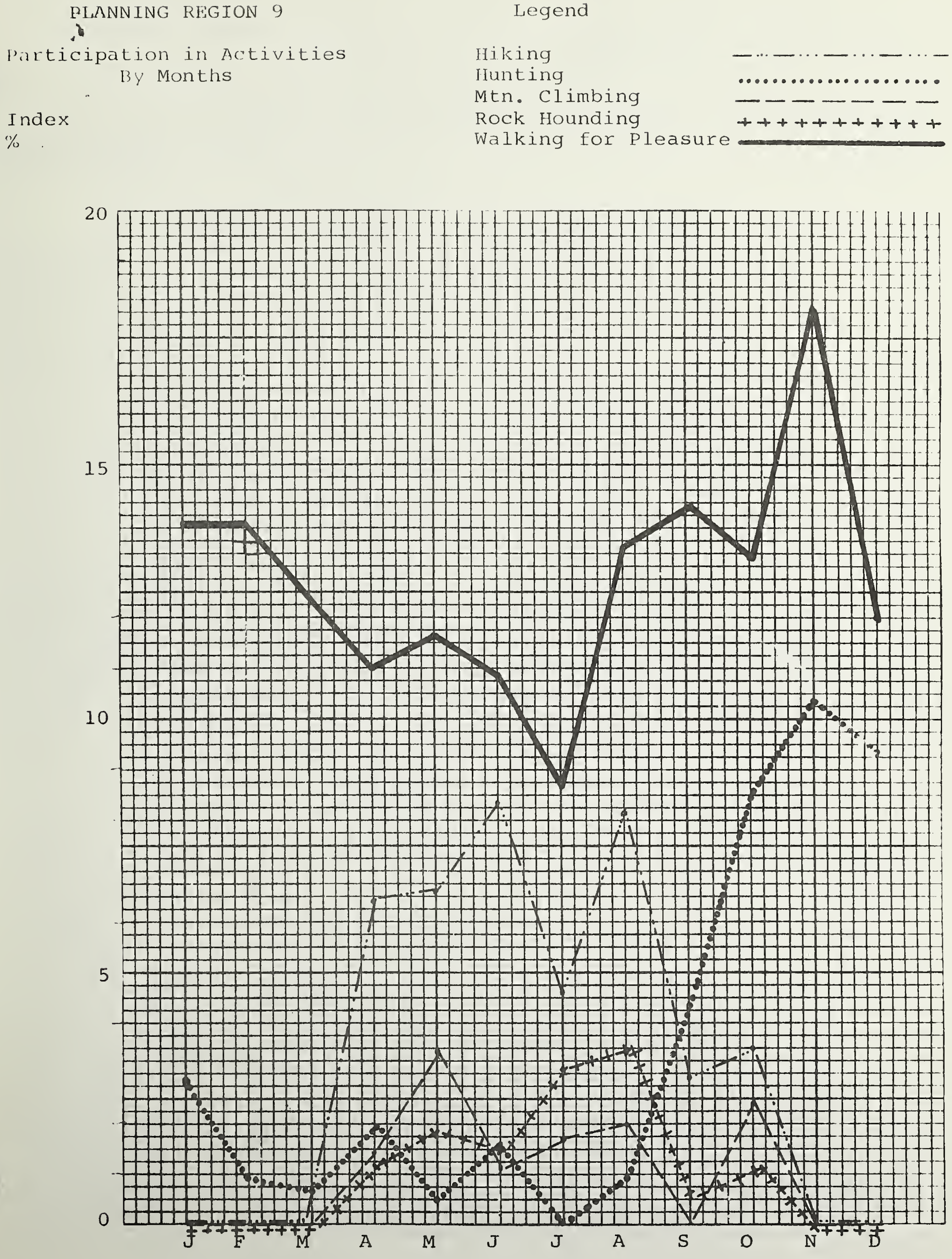
Participation in Activities
By Months



Water Oriented Activities

PLANNING REGION 9

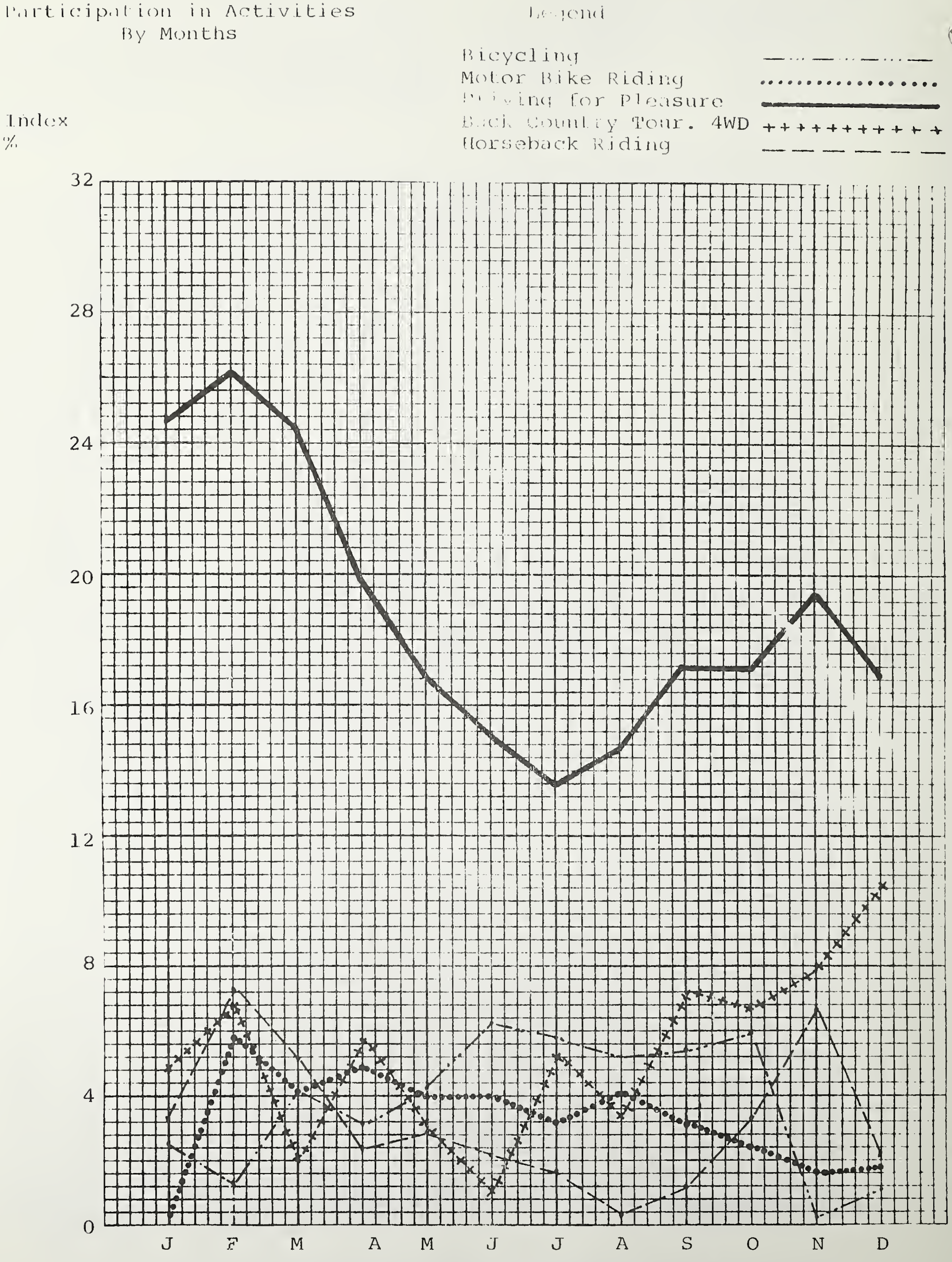
Participation in Activities
By Months



Traveling Activities with/without Vehicle

PLANNING REGION 9

Participation in Activities By Months



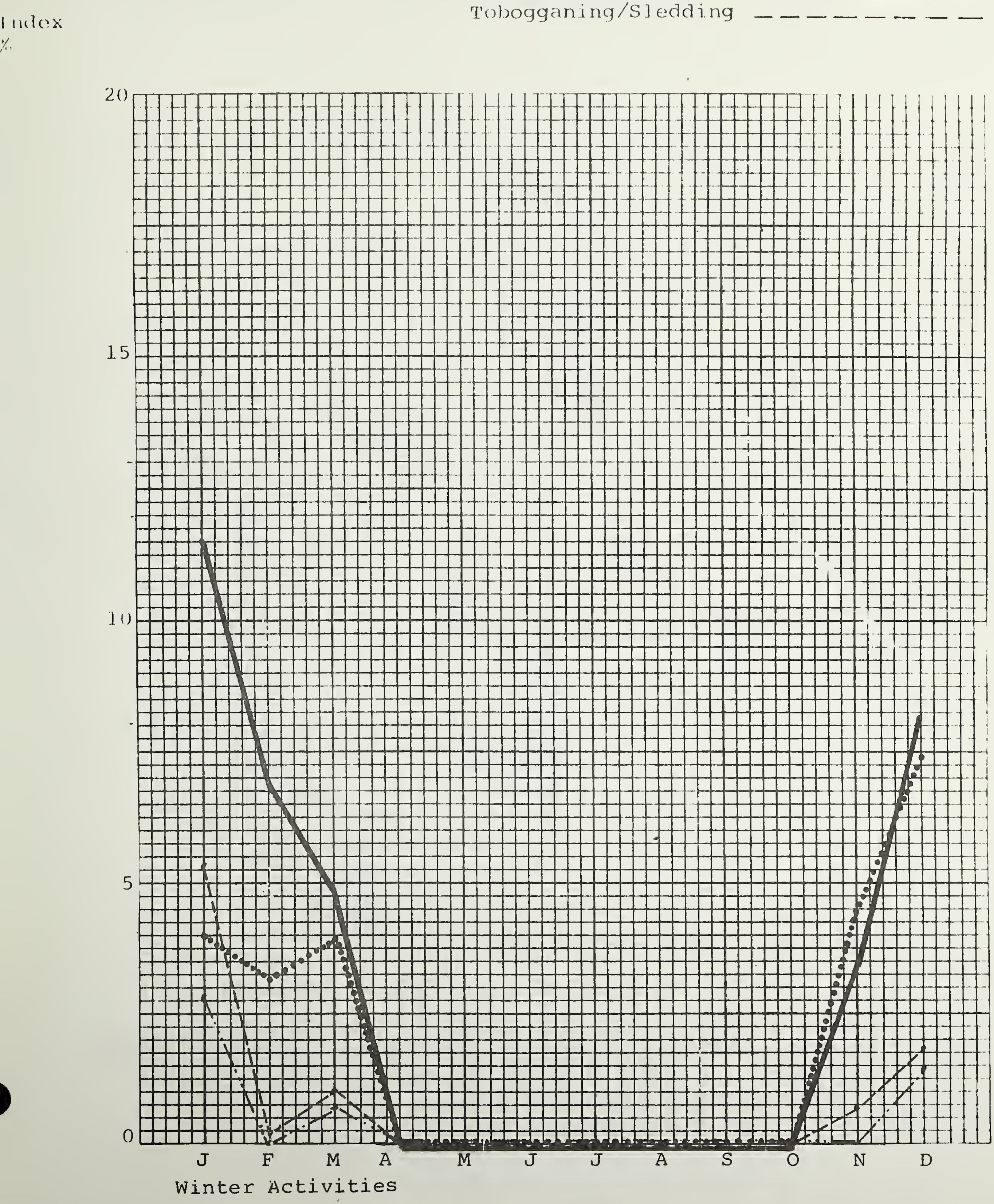
Traveling Activities - Vehicle Needed

PLANNING REGION 9

Activity's Monthly Trends

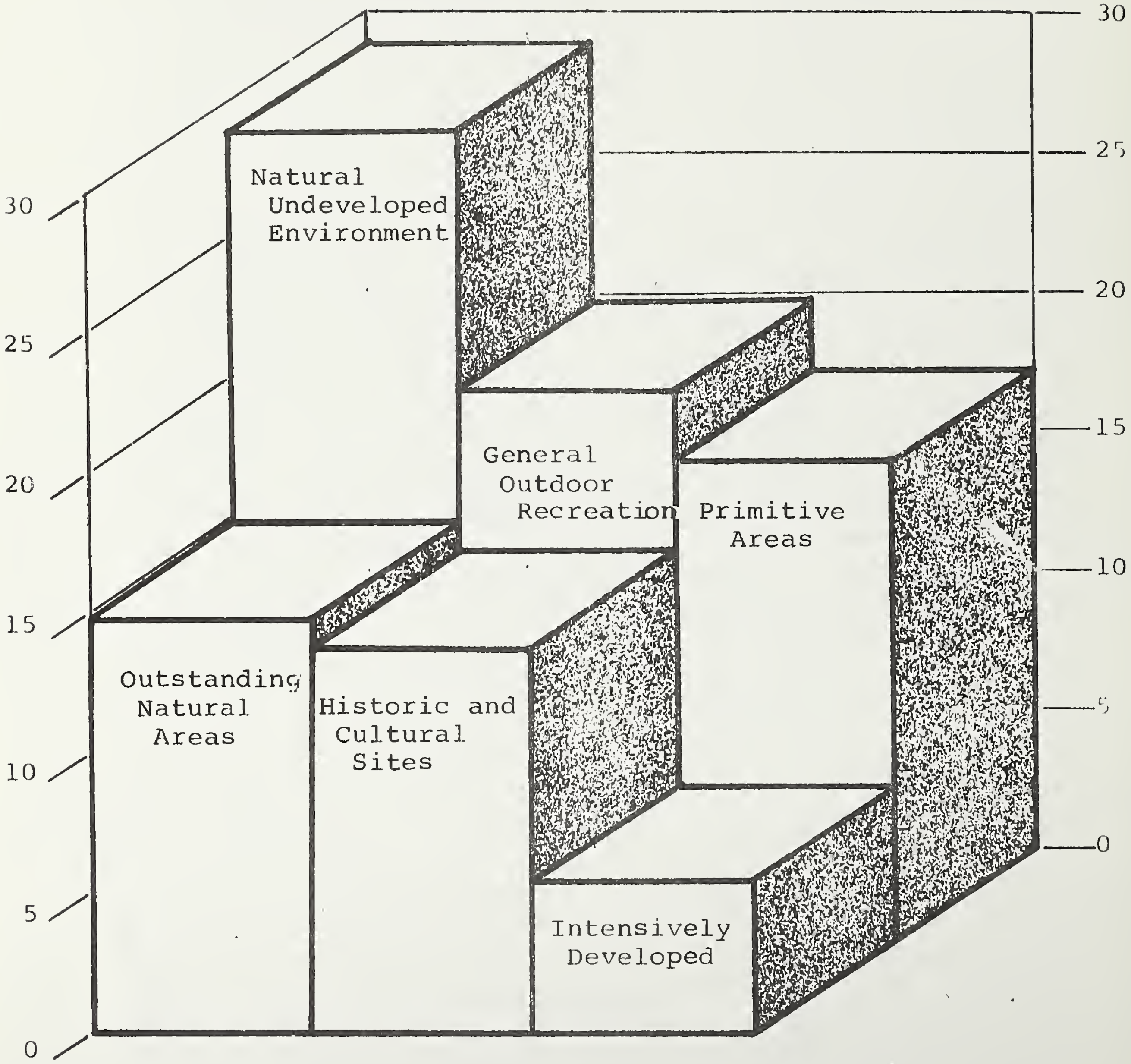
Legend

Ice Skating
Snow Skiing
Snowmobile Riding
Tobogganing/Sledding



PLANNING REGION 9

Preferences for Selected Types of Recreation Areas by Montana Residents
Yearly Totals



Numbers indicate a weighted percent based on the number of responses to first, second, and third preferences.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT RECREATION SUMMARY REGION 9

The following table tabulates facilities available for recreation in the municipalities of Belgrade, Livingston, Three Forks, West Yellowstone, and White Sulphur Springs.

MUNICIPAL FACILITIES

MUNICIPALITIES	1970 POPULATION	1972 PARK ACREAGE	Golf	Swimming Pool	Tennis	Multi-Purpose Courts	Baseball or Softball	Football	Children's Playgrounds	Large All Purpose Playfields	Picnic Areas	Designated Bike Trails	Indoor Recreation Centers	Facilities for the Handicapped	Special Accommodations for the Handicapped
Belgrade	1,307	8					x	x	x	x	x				
	Facility Needs:			N	N	N							N	N	N
Livingston	6,883	65		x	x		x	x	x		x		x		
	Facility Needs:														
Three Forks	1,188	17			x		x	x	x	x	x		x		
	Facility Needs:		N	N											
West Yellowstone	756	3		x	x										
	Facility Needs:						N	N	N	N	N				
White Sulphur Springs	1,200	5			x		x	x	x	x			x		
	Facility Needs:		N	N		N					N	N			
	Facility Needs:														
	Facility Needs:														

Recreation and parks expenditures, which include money for maintenance operation, personnel, acquisition, and development are tabulated below:

MUNICIPAL EXPENDITURES

	F. Y. 1970	F. Y. 1971	F. Y. 1972
Belgrade	$ 4,600	$ 2,700	$ 3,000
Livingston	11,600	10,500	10,500
Three Forks	2,813	4,272	2,750
West Yellowstone	N/A	N/A	N/A
White Sulphur Springs	10,642	4,500	7,162

N/A - information not available

Belgrade indicates the highest priorities are for a swimming pool, multi-purpose courts and an indoor recreation center.

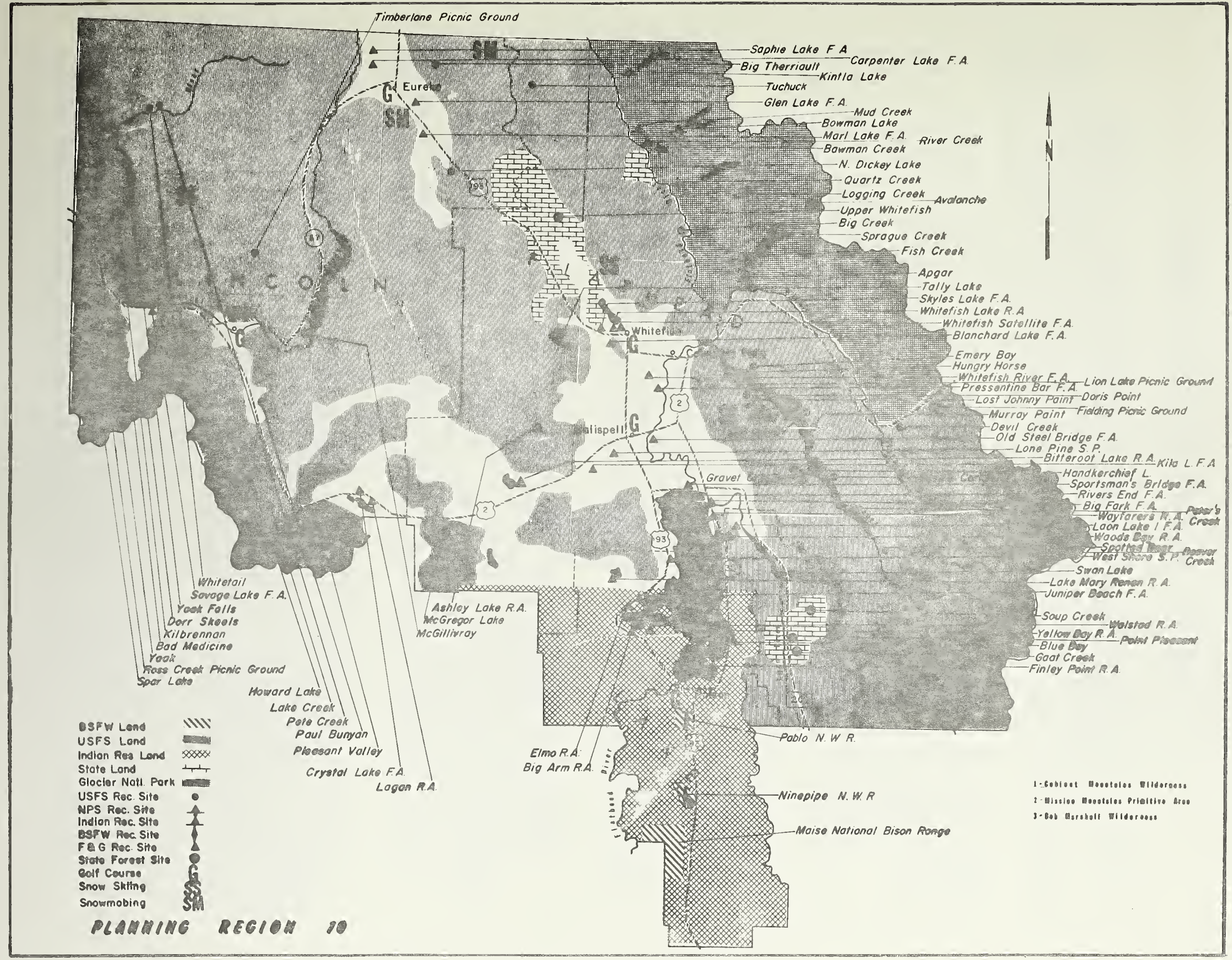
Funding for operation, maintenance and development has been the major problem for Belgrade. The lack of a pool and indoor recreation facilities for winter use reflect the inability to raise sufficient funds.

Livingston has stressed no new facilities at present due to a lack of funds, although state assistance in participation in B.O.R. program is still needed.

Three Forks finds that outdoor recreation opportunity has been decreased in the area by local land owners closing access to fishing streams. The town owns approximately twenty acres on the Jefferson River which it is considering for development.

West Yellowstone considers its highest priority as the development of baseball, softball and football fields. It considers out-right grants from the state or federal governments as the most needed assistance.

White Sulphur Springs considers a swimming pool and multi-purpose courts as its highest priority. State assistance is desired in clarifying funding program operation, and funds for a swimming pool, to alleviate bussing of children to Townsend. The town has an unofficial policy to furnish a recreation program each summer. Lack of funds for major recreation projects is the most urgent problem in White Sulphur Springs. It is felt that there is much potential for various recreation activities in the area.



PLANNING REGION 10

Timberlane Picnic Ground
Saphie Lake F.A.
Carpenter Lake F.A.
Big Therriault
Kintla Lake
Tuchuck
Glen Lake F.A.
Mud Creek
Bowman Lake
Marl Lake F.A.
River Creek
Bowman Creek
N. Dickey Lake
Quartz Creek
Logging Creek
Avalanche
Upper Whitefish
Big Creek
Sprague Creek
Fish Creek
Apgar
Tally Lake
Skyles Lake F.A.
Whitefish Lake R.A.
Whitefish Satellite F.A.
Blanchard Lake F.A.
Emery Bay
Hungry Horse
Whitefish River F.A.
Lion Lake Picnic Ground
Pressentine Bar F.A.
Lost Johnny Point
Doris Point
Murray Point
Fielding Picnic Ground
Devil Creek
Old Steel Bridge F.A.
Lone Pine S.P.
Bitteroot Lake R.A.
Kila L. F.A.
Handkerchief L.
Sportsman's Bridge F.A.
Rivers End F.A.
Big Fork F.A.
Peter's Creek
Wayfarers R.A.
Laon Lake I F.A.
Woods Bay R.A.
Spotted Bear
Beaver Creek
West Shore S.P.
Swan Lake
Lake Mary Ronan R.A.
Juniper Beach F.A.
Soup Creek
Walstad R.A.
Yellow Bay R.A.
Point Pleasant
Blue Bay
Goat Creek
Finley Point R.A.
Pablo N.W.R.
Ninepipe N.W.R.
Moise National Bison Range
Elmo R.A.
Big Arm R.A.
Ashley Lake R.A.
McGregor Lake
McGillivray
Whitetail
Savage Lake F.A.
Yaak Falls
Dorr Skeels
Kilbrennan
Bad Medicine
Yaak
Ross Creek Picnic Ground
Spar Lake
Howard Lake
Lake Creek
Pete Creek
Paul Bunyan
Pleasant Valley
Crystal Lake F.A.
Logan R.A.
Eureka
Whitefish
Kalispell
Gravel
LINCOLN
FLATHEAD
Flathead River
N
2
93
BSFW Land
USFS Land
Indian Res Land
State Land
Glacier Natl. Park
USFS Rec. Site
NPS Rec. Site
Indian Rec. Site
BSFW Rec. Site
F & G Rec. Site
State Forest Site
Golf Course
Snow Skiing
Snowmobing
1-Cabinet Mountains Wilderness
2-Mission Mountains Primitive Area
3-Bob Marshall Wilderness

REGION 10

SUMMARY OF MAJOR RECREATION PROBLEMS

Region 10, long established as one of the major focal points in outdoor recreation in Montana, has a wealth of natural resources and opportunities for the residents and the visitors as well. Glacier National Park, the nationally famous Bob Marshall Wilderness, literally millions of acres of national forests, and Flathead Lake are but a few of the renowned attractions.

As with several other regions, the drawing power of the region as a whole is such that it generates enormous visitation from outside of the region and outside of the state, indeed from the nation as a whole. Thus, while the local resident finds ample opportunity and is rather easily absorbed by the extensive areas of forest, lakes and streams, it is the visitor which figures strongly in planning. The economic benefit derived from the out of region visitation is well established and is of course a continuing factor in planning as well.

Faced with an annual influx of newcomers to the recreational attractions, administrators of public agencies have continuing problems of accommodating visitors to key areas and in providing alternative sources of recreation. There are also problems for the visitor who is newly arrived and is faced with a host of attractions from which to choose. The vast areas of the forests and the array of choices create problems, though somewhat enviable ones, as well.

Not to be overlooked in the process of providing for the affluent visitor and the knowledgeable, capable and independent resident, is the need to provide for those who may not qualify in these categories. Recreational use of the famous attractions must be made available to all segments of society, and considerable work remains to be done in assuring that this will be so. Differences in culture, income and capability must not be allowed to prevent anyone from deriving some benefit from recreation in the out-of-doors.

One of the major concerns of the public agencies, and the public itself, is the environmental impact of the volume and the congestion of use which is occurring and which likely will increase. Protection of the resource and distribution of the use are important objectives in the regional planning process. Methods must be found, and in the very near future, for insuring the continued attractiveness of the basic resources which inspire the recreational and the residential use we have today.

Recreational use has outdistanced recreational planning, and an interagency approach to solution of the problems is imperative. The federal, state and local governments, together with the private sector, all have a stake in the continued protection of the resource and in assuring the continued pleasures derived from the out-of-doors.

GEOGRAPHIC, POPULATION AND HISTORIC CHARACTERISTICS

Northwestern Montana, long a destination area for its residents, is now a focal point of vacationers from throughout much of the nation as well. Attracted by the renown of Glacier the visitor has become enamored of the entire region, and its backcountry and byways are now almost as well known as the national park itself.

So attractive is the region that major problems loom ahead, even with the best of planning. As with other destination resource areas, not only must the resource itself be carefully managed, but a program to manage people must be undertaken as well.

The topography of Region 10 is mountainous with one exception, the Flathead Valley. The origin of the major mountain ranges generally following a northwest-southeast axis has been primarily the result of folding, faulting, uplifting and tilting of sedimentary layered blocks of earth. Very few igneous rock intrusions are found in Region 10. Major mountain ranges are the Purcell Mountains, the Salish (Flathead) Mountains, the Whitefish Range, the Glacier Park Range, the Swan Range, the Mission Range, and the Cabinet Mountains. Much glaciation occurred during the ice ages, both mountain glaciation and glaciation from the Cordilleran ice sheet which moved south from Canada in the northern Rockies. A portion of Glacial Lake Missoula covered the valley floors in the southern part of the region leaving thick rich sediments. The major valley is the Flathead Valley and is some 20 by 80 miles including Flathead Lake. Other valleys are quite long and narrow and are associated with the many rivers in the region. Most valleys received substantial deposits from being ancient lake beds, but glaciation generally disturbed the soils.

Region 10 is one of the most heavily forested regions in the state. Only in the Flathead Valley and along the narrow river valleys are there grasslands and meadows which are characteristic of intermountain valleys. Some deciduous cottonwoods, alders and willows grow along the rivers and streams. Ponderosa pine inhabits the lower drier elevations in the region. Moving into the higher elevations, lodgepole pine is encountered in some areas, while the Montane forest is found elsewhere. The Montane forest, especially in the northwest part of this region, includes a wide variety of species including the western whitepine, western hemlock, western red cedar, Douglas fir, white fir, grand fir, western larch, white spruce, blue spruce and others. The Montane forest in Region 10 is similar to the Pacific coast forest in its habitat and variety. At the highest elevations, alpine meadow is found with occasional alpine fir, Englemann spruce, limber pine, whitebark pine and mountain hemlock.

Water resources in Region 10 are exceptionally abundant with numerous small mountain lakes, major rivers and streams, large reservoirs and Flathead Lake, all generally of high water quality, being found in the region. Flathead Lake, the largest natural lake in the northwest, is a prime resource and attraction for the area. Hungry Horse Reservoir and Koocanusa Reservoir are two substantial water bodies available for many uses. Major rivers and streams in the region are the Kootenai, the North, South and Middle Forks of the Flathead, the Stillwater, the Swan, the Little Bitterroot, the Jocko, the Yaak and the Fisher. All waters drain to the Pacific Ocean from Region 10.

Climatic conditions in this region often resemble those of the Pacific Northwest. The region is normally the recipient of weather conditions moving in from the Pacific coast, including the milder temperatures, moister conditions and relatively high precipitation in the higher elevations. Snowfall is heavy in the mountains and overcast skies are common in the winter months. The area experiences the northern Rocky Mountain pattern of a spring maximum rainfall followed by a dry July and August.

The population of Region 10 is 71,968 according to the official 1970 census. County totals are listed below:

REGION 10 POPULATION DISTRIBUTION

County		Persons
Flathead		39,460
Lake		14,445
Lincoln		18,063
	Region Total	71,968

The majority of the population is concentrated in the Flathead Lake area with Kalispell (10,526), Whitefish (3,349), Columbia Falls (2,652) and Polson (2,464) constituting the major centers of population. The remainder of the population is dispersed throughout the region in the southern portion of the Flathead Valley (Ronan 1,347 persons; St. Ignatius 925 persons); in the Libby area (3,286 persons); and the Eureka area (1,195 persons). The urban population is 19,813 or about 28% of the total region population. Approximately 2,700 American Indians reside in Region 10, a substantial minority group which must be accounted for even though constituting only about 4% of the total region population. Region 10 is the only region in the state in which all counties made a substantial increase in population since 1960. Lincoln County gained 44%; Flathead County gained 20%; and Lake County gained 10%.

Region 10 is served by rail, air transportation with a major airport at Kalispell, and two major highways, U. S. 2 running east and west through Kalispell and Libby, and U. S. 93 running north and south through the Flathead Valley.

The economy of Region 10 is oriented heavily toward the forest industries with most of the available timber being harvested from national forest land. Some durable goods manufacturing is also important in the region, much of it using wood and metals as raw material. Tourism is also of prime importance to the region and is considered a major industry or business. Glacier National Park, Flathead Lake, Hungry Horse and Koocanusa Reservoirs, plus a great natural outdoor environment of lakes, forests and streams offer the tourist an ideal recreation area.

Public land in Region 10 accounts for a high proportion of all land in the region. The following table indicates the percentage of public land in each county in Region 10.

PUBLIC LAND IN REGION 10*

County	Percentage	Square Miles
Flathead	75.6	3,980
Lake	21.9	364
Lincoln	76.2	2,840
	67.4	7,184

*Does not include local government land

The public land in this region is administered as follows:

PUBLIC LAND ADMINISTRATION--REGION 10

Agency	Land (acres)
Federal	
U. S. Forest Service	3,696,984
National Park Service	627,810
Bureau of Sport Fisheries & Wildlife	8,768
Bureau of Land Management	160
International Boundary	8
Total	4,333,730

(continued)

Agency (continued)	Land (acres)
State	
Office of the State Forester	245,847
Dept. of State Lands (not including State Forests)	8,840
Montana Dept. of Fish and Game	4,938
Total	259,625
Indian Reservation Land	
Flathead Reservation	334,000
Local	
Community Parks	65

Regional Points of Interest

Moiese National Bison Range

Established in 1908 by President Teddy Roosevelt, this 18,540 acre range is home to some 400 - 500 bison as well as elk, pronghorn antelope, whitetail and mule deer, and other wildlife.

Hungry Horse Dam and Reservoir

A major water body near Glacier National Park offering a variety of recreation and water oriented activities.

St. Ignatius Mission

The mission was established in 1854 for the Flathead Indians and offers the visitor a view of beautiful ecclesiastical architecture.

Glacier National Park

Some of the most spectacular scenery in the world is viewed along the Going-to-the-Sun Highway, a masterpiece of engineering. The area has been subjected to intense glaciation, but presently active glaciers in the park are relatively few.

Flathead Lake

This large, natural fresh water lake is one of the prime attractions and recreation destination points in the northwest.

Libby Dam

The dam and resulting reservoir, when completed, will be a multi-purpose water resource project. Expected to be about 90 miles long, the reservoir will offer a variety of recreation opportunities. The opportunities will be limited by the large draw-down aspects.

Historic Sites

Historic sites in Region 10 are somewhat limited with early missionary work with the Indians being represented as well as early commerce and conservation.

The St. Ignatius Mission dating back to 1854 is the site of one of the most beautiful examples of ecclesiastical architecture in the northwest. Most of the materials used in construction of the church in 1890 were procured or manufactured locally. Brother Carignano was responsible for the valued art work in the church. It still serves as an active mission and is believed to be the oldest continuously occupied mission in Montana.

Below is a summary chart listing the major historic sites in Region 10.

HISTORIC SITES IN REGION 10

Historic Site	County	Significant Date	Significance
Demersville	Flathead	1887	Commerce
Howse's Post	Flathead	1810	Commerce
F. Linderman House	Flathead	mid 20th C.	Literature
Sen. B.K. Wheeler Home	Flathead	1920	Political
Fort Connah	Lake	1846	Commerce
Moiese National Bison Range	Lake (Sanders)	1908	Conservation
St. Ignatius Mission	Lake	1854	Hist.-Aborig.-Arch.
Kootenai Post I	Lincoln	1808	Commerce
Kootenai Post II	Lincoln	1811	Commerce
Fort Steel Trail	Lincoln	Late 1800's	Commerce

CHARACTERISTICS OF RECREATION USE

Leisure Time in Region 10

Outdoor recreation for Region 10 residents is very significant and ranked a close second to indoor spectator activities which were the most popular way of spending leisure time. Home-related activities ranked third and were relatively close to indoor spectator activities and outdoor recreation in popularity. Social activities ranked fourth and were not close in popularity to the above three. Outdoor recreation was engaged in most frequently in June and July, least frequently in November. During the twelve-month period the greatest amount of leisure time available, in total, for residents of Region 10 was indicated for April, whereas the least was available in February.

The range of popularity for most leisure time activities in Region 10 was not significant; most attaining popularity at various times throughout the year. Self-improvement activities had one of the widest ranges of popularity. During September, November and December indoor play activities exceed other leisure time activities in popularity. Indoor spectator activities were quite consistent throughout the year, declining in the fall and early winter months. Generally, most leisure time activities were relatively consistent in popularity throughout the year.

(For a more complete graphic account see Appendix.)

The Characteristics and Viewpoints of the Park User in Region 10

Region 10 is the only other region besides neighboring Region 5 in which the non-resident user exceeded the resident user of recreation facilities. Non-resident use accounted for 54% of all recreation use on sites surveyed in the region, whereas resident use accounted for 46%. This higher percentage of non-resident to resident use as in Region 5 can be attributed to the presence of Glacier National Park and Flathead Lake within the Region. Of the 46% which originated within Montana, Flathead County within Region 10 accounted for 15% of the users. Missoula County in Nearby Region 11 accounted for 11% of the recreation use and Lake County also within Region 10 accounted for 3%. Cascade, Lewis & Clark and other counties accounted for the balance of in-state use. This indicates that of the Montana resident users of facilities in Region 10, slightly more than half originate outside of Region 10. In addition, the majority of recreationists residing in Region 10 remain in Region 10 to recreate. This figure is somewhere near 89% and attests to the high desirability of recreation areas and facilities within this region. The most prevalent party size encountered during the survey was that of two persons.

In Region 10, overnight and lengthy stays predominated at most recreation areas and day use was relatively infrequent. The importance of being able to engage in a particular recreation activity was given most frequently as the reason for choosing a recreation area. Some 57% indicated this as their primary reason. Natural beauty of the surrounding area was given as the second most frequent reason for selecting a recreation area, (44%). Facility conditions in Region 10 were generally on a par with the state average. Environmental factors in Region 10 were rated on or above the state average. The level of maintenance at recreation sites in Region 10 rated above the state average.

Approximately 40% of all those respondents surveyed indicated a need for additional recreation facilities at given recreation areas in the region. Perhaps this is due to a high rate of use and popularity of recreation areas in this region.

As with neighboring Region 5, camping was the most popular activity for recreation users, and this was followed by resting and relaxing, swimming, fishing and walking for pleasure in that order. An indication of the popularity of water-oriented activities in Region 10 is indicated by the ranking of preference for these activities by recreation users. In preference, swimming ranked most popular, followed by resting and relaxing, camping, fishing and boating in that order. Three of the recreation activities preferred were water-oriented.

Implications

1. Provisions to enable recreationists to stay longer periods of time especially in the vicinity of Glacier National Park and Flathead Lake would probably be in order. Facilities only for day use should probably be of second consideration until further study is initiated.

2. The high incidence of use by non-residents, particularly in the Glacier National Park and Flathead Lake vicinities, would indicate that special attention to greater accommodations or a different policy to meet the greater demand might be the case. This would suggest that a study of non-resident preference and use would be desirable. Most important in choosing recreation areas in Region 10 seems to be the fact that recreationists could engage in certain activities at these recreation areas. The popularity of various recreation activities, especially those oriented toward water, should be considered to a high degree when providing recreation facilities in the region. Natural beauty should also be sought because of its importance.

3. The condition of recreation facilities and of environmental factors is already at a reasonably high point for many areas in the region, and little can be done to improve present conditions, except at selected areas in

Region 10. Since about 40% of all respondents surveyed indicated a need for additional recreation activities or facilities at selected recreation areas in the region, it would appear that some effort to provide such could be made in the future.

4. Because of the high use by non-residents it would appear that many users come long distances to enjoy recreation of a specific nature at sites where there is an abundance of natural beauty. Visits are usually long and facilities to accommodate visits of this length and specific activities, especially those oriented toward water, should be provided. These statements are partially supported by the popularity of swimming, fishing and boating in the region. More passive activities such as resting and relaxing and camping should not be overlooked. Increased emphasis should be put on providing facilities and recreation activities of the above nature.

The Montana Resident

Characteristics of the resident respondents can be found in Appendixes. These data include the respondents marital status, sex, age, household status, employment, vacation allowance, available time and general health.

Tables following indicate the frequency of recreation in various activities by those surveyed and is a measure of their popularity in Region 10.

Some correlation exists between the recreation activities residents engaged in, and those indicated as most preferred. Driving for pleasure again ranked first in participation, but was second place in actual preference. Fishing, rated fourth in participation, replaced driving as the number one preferred recreation activity. In addition, fishing, hunting, motor boating, motor bike riding and camping all made significant gains in the stated preference of recreationists over the popularity of actual participation in these activities. To compensate for those gains, walking for pleasure, sightseeing, picnicking, playing outdoor games and bicycling all declined somewhat in popularity when relating stated preference to actual participation in such an activity.

Fishing was the most popular water-oriented activity in Region 10 reaching peaks in February, June and December. Only in August was it exceeded by another water-oriented activity, swimming. August was the peak month for swimming, as June was the peak month for motor boating, both very popular water-oriented activities in Region 10. In winter activities, snowmobiling greatly exceeded other activities in popularity throughout the winter. Snowskiing was generally the second most popular winter oriented activity. Sightseeing was the most popular recreation activity of its type reaching a peak in March and dropping off in the summer by picnicking, and in July by camping and playing outdoor games.

Walking for pleasure was extremely popular in Region 10, reaching a peak in the fall and winter, and dropping off considerably in the summer months. Only in the fall was walking for pleasure exceeded in popularity, and that by hunting which reached a peak in October. Driving for pleasure far exceeded other activities where a vehicle is used and generally reached a peak of popularity in the colder months dropping off in the warmer summer months. Never was it exceeded by any other activity in its category.

(For a detailed graphic account see Appendixes.)

Residents of Region 10 stated they preferred to recreate most in natural environment areas, with a minimum of facility development. The second most popular areas were general outdoor recreation areas such as state parks and forest campgrounds. The third most popular were the primitive areas rating nearly as high as the general outdoor recreation areas. Preference for recreating in primitive areas in Region 10 was the second highest ranking in the state. Such areas would be the Bob Marshall Wilderness or the Mission Mountains Primitive area.

Implications

1. Because of the popularity of driving for pleasure as a recreation activity, facilities to enhance driving for pleasure and sightseeing on existing roads should probably be available for residents of Region 10. This does not imply that new roads to accommodate driving for pleasure are necessarily desirable. While driving is already a problem in such areas as Glacier National Park, this points up the need to divert some of the driving for pleasure activity to other scenic areas. Through promotion of other scenic natural areas comparable to Glacier National Park, and through enhancing of the routes, driving for pleasure can be accommodated to the same or a higher degree in other areas within the region. This would be one of the ways in which to meet the demand without creating new problems.

2. Fishing because of its high popularity in preference should be accorded greater attention in the future. A continuing program of acquiring public access to major water bodies and streams to accommodate fishing and other water activities should be pursued. Water-oriented activities are very popular in Region 10. The demand for water-oriented activities can only be accommodated in the future by providing for greater public access to major water bodies such as Flathead Lake and popular streams.

3. At points of interest throughout the region and within towns, facilities for such activities as walking for pleasure and picnicking should be provided. River floating is also a growing activity and this region offers many rivers suited for floating. Other activities which should receive attention because of popularity both in preference and participation in Region 10 are hunting, motorbike riding, camping, backcountry touring and bicycling.

4. Children's activities which should receive attention are playing outdoor games, bicycling and fishing in that order.

5. Winter activities such as snowmobiling, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, sledding and downhill skiing can be accommodated quite adequately in the mountainous areas of Region 10. Already, a high degree of winter activities are engaged in at Glacier National Park. Major snowskiing facilities are presently located at Big Mountain near Whitefish and Turner Mountain near Libby. Consideration should be given to providing more winter oriented activities areas in Region 10.

6. Residents of Region 10 prefer to a high degree natural undeveloped areas and primitive areas to recreate in. A sizable percentage also desire general outdoor recreation areas where developed facilities are available. Greater access to more remote parts of national forests and wild and primitive areas should be made available to these residents. Developed camping, boating, swimming and other facilities should continue to be developed at key scenic locations and especially at water bodies, lakes, streams, rivers, etc. Because of the high demand for water-oriented activities in the region, and because of the high potential for water-oriented activities due to the many lakes and streams in the region, it would appear that the demand-supply ratio would be balanced quite evenly.

Problems and Potentials for Recreation in Region 10

Driving for pleasure has a high potential in many areas in Region 10. In particular Swan Valley, Flathead Lake Area, Libby Area and Glacier National Park all provide areas of scenic beauty and areas in which driving is very desirable. Sightseeing has a comparable desirability in these areas as well as other locations in the region. The opportunity for loop trips and visiting various attractions in Region 10 is relatively good because of the present road system. Walking for pleasure is an activity which can be engaged in and enjoyed at many scenic areas throughout the region as well as in the towns and cities of Region 10.

The opportunity for fishing is almost unlimited in Region 10 with such an abundance of lakes, rivers and streams in the area. There is a problem due to the higher prices asked for private land on recreational waterways, and such purchase may require higher levels of Federal assistance in the future. Some of the more popular areas are already reaching a point of over-saturation, and measures will have to be taken to alleviate this problem. An example is the overuse at Yellow Bay which could result in deterioration of the environment.

The need to provide public access to recreation areas is the major job of the public agencies. The private sector can often take care of other recreation needs. The U.S. Forest Service has the responsibility of providing facilities at Hungry Horse Dam. Pollution is a problem and a growing one, and measures to control pollution, including zoning for residential, private enterprise and agricultural use is needed in the near future. Flathead Lake, of national significance, is a major water body which is being polluted to an increased degree. The limited public access to Flathead Lake, both along the south end and other areas is a major problem. Private purchase of water frontage on Flathead Lake has decreased the potential for public access except at state areas. Enhancement of other water-oriented activities is occurring. A brochure on river floating on the north fork of the Flathead River is being prepared. Some areas that are fishing access sites are being used to a high degree for other activities as well, causing some problems.

Camping is a major recreation activity which is engaged in to a high degree in Region 10. Camping activities must be coordinated with the private sector in the future. Among the matters for consideration is the comparability of fees charged by the public agency versus the fees charged by the private sector. Both the private sector and public camping areas are needed, and the role each must play should be better defined. On public campgrounds, quality of recreation must be provided through control of the camp situation, with regulations, etc. Change is constantly occurring and positions of public agencies must be reviewed continually to see where emphasis should be placed. Some public agencies should provide technical assistance to the private sector as well, and in the public interest provide better recreation overall. Perhaps criteria should be set up for the private sector campground areas comparable to public guidelines. The private sector and the state can play a role, as well as other federal agencies, by picking up overflow campers from Glacier National Park. The National Park Service is presently in a process of re-evaluating their overall goals and objectives.

Because of the high potential for wildlife in the Flathead Lake area, a wildlife refuge is being developed on the north shore of Flathead Lake. It is a 2400-acre site which will be administered by the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, and it will be a sanctuary from February to July, in particular, for wildlife and water fowl. Presently the goose nesting area at Polson is being encroached upon.

Other areas in the region also have the potential for wildlife and waterfowl enhancement, such as the upper Swan Lake or Smith Lake. Generally in Region 10 as in other regions, there is an overall need for land use planning of which recreation is only one component.

There is a great deal of opportunity for hunting in the region. As in other areas, there is a problem of trespass and damage suffered by the private land owner. Access to the boundaries of public lands is a problem in given areas.

Inventory of Facilities

Federal and State Recreation Facilities

In Region 10, the major public agencies which provide recreation facilities and land for public recreation use are the National Park Service, the U.S. Forest Service and the Montana Department of Fish and Game. The Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, the Office of the State Forester and Indian Reservations are involved in supplying recreation to a lesser degree. Major areas with selected facilities are summarized below:

FEDERAL AND STATE RECREATION AREAS -- REGION 10

Federal	Picnic Units	Camping Units	Swimming Areas Available	Fishing Access Available	Boat Ramp Available
National Park Service					
Kintla Lake	0	29	0	X	X
Mud Creek	0	3	0	0	0
Bowman Lake	0	48	0	X	X
River Creek	0	7	0	0	0
Bowman Creek	0	7	0	X	0
Quartz Creek	0	5	0	X	0
Logging Creek	0	10	0	X	0
Avalanche	0	140	0	X	0
Spray Creek	0	45	0	X	0
Fish Creek	0	180	0	X	0
Apgar	0	200	0	X	X
Total	0	674	0	9	3

Federal	Picnic Units	Camping Units	Swimming	Fishing	Boat Ramp
U. S. Forest Service (as of March 1, 1974)					
Flathead N.F.					
Beardance Picnic Area	15	0	0	X	0
Beaver Creek	0	4	0	X	0
Big Creek	9	19	0	X	0
Big Mountain	4	0	0	0	0
Canyon Creek	0	0	0	X	X
Cilly Creek	0	4	0	X	0
Devil Creek	0	13	0	X	0
Devil's Corkscrew	0	4	X	X	X
Doris Creek	0	0	0	X	X
Doris Point	18	0	X	X	0
Elk Island	0	7	X	X	0
Emery Bay	13	9	X	X	X
Fielding Picnic Area	7	0	0	X	0
Fire Island	0	4	X	X	0
Flathead Lake Picnic Area	16	0	0	0	0
Graves Creek	10	0	X	X	X
Handkerchief Lake	0	9	0	X	0
Hungry Horse	0	27	0	X	0
Lakeview	0	4	0	X	0
Lost Johnny	0	4	X	X	X
Lost Johnny Point	0	18	X	X	X
Meadow Creek Airfield	0	6	0	X	0

Federal	Picnic Units	Camping Units	Swimming	Fishing	Boat Ramp
Flathead N.F. (continued)					
Moose Lake	0	1	0	X	0
Murray Bay	6	46	X	X	X
North Lion Lake	9	0	X	X	0
Patty Creek	0	3	0	X	0
Peter's Creek	0	4	0	X	0
Red Meadow Lake	0	1	0	X	0
Schafer Airfield #1	0	9	0	X	0
Schafer Airfield #2	0	2	0	X	0
Silvia Lake 2	0	3	0	X	0
South Lion Lake	11	0	X	X	0
Spotted Bear	0	13	0	X	0
Swan Lake	4	31	X	X	X
Tally Lake	0	36	X	X	X
Tuchuck	0	7	0	X	0
Upper Big Creek	1	4	0	X	0
Upper Stillwater Lake	0	2	X	X	X
Kaniksu N.F.					
Bull River	0	18	0	X	X
North Shore	7	12	X	X	X
Spar Lake	0	8	0	X	X
Kootenai N.F.					
Bad Medicine	4	7	0	X	X
Big Terriault	0	10	0	X	X

Federal	Picnic Units	Camping Units	Swim-ming	Fish-ing	Boat Ramp
Kootenai N.F. (continued)					
Camp 32	0	4	0	X	0
Caribou	0	2	0	X	0
Dickey Lake Over-look	1	0	0	0	0
Dorr Skeels	1	6	0	X	X
Howard Lake	2	5	0	X	X
Kilbrennan	0	5	0	X	X
Lake Creek	0	4	0	X	0
Little Terriault	0	6	0	X	0
Loon Lake	0	4	0	X	0
McGillivray	0	55	0	0	0
McGregor Lake	15	0	X	X	X
North Dickey Lake	12	16	X	X	X
Paul Bunyan	0	32	0	0	0
Pete Creek	0	10	0	X	0
Pleasant Valley	0	18	0	0	0
Red Top	0	2	0	X	0
Rock Lake	4	1	0	X	X
Ross Creek Picnic Area	8	0	0	X	0
South Dickey Lake	5	2	X	X	X
Timber Lane Picnic Area	11	5	0	X	0
Upper Pipe Creek	3	2	0	X	0
Whitetail	0	12	0	X	0
Yaak	0	43	0	X	0
Yaak Falls	0	7	0	X	0

Federal	Picnic Units	Camping Units	Swimming	Fishing	Boat Ramp
Lolo N.F.					
Bend	0	4	0	X	0
Cascade	0	10	0	X	0
Clark Memorial	0	5	0	X	0
Copper King	0	5	0	X	0
Fishtrap Creek	0	4	0	X	0
Fishtrap Lake	2	9	0	X	X
Gold Rush	0	7	0	0	0
Total	198	634	18	67	24
Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife					
Ninepipe National Wildlife Refuge	5	0	0	X	0
Pablo National Wildlife Refuge	5	0	0	X	0
Total	10	0	0	2	0
State					
Montana Fish and Game Department					
Ashley Lake SRA	3	9	X	X	X
Big Arm SRA	7	75	X	X	X
Bigfork FAS	0	0	0	X	X
Bitterroot Lake SRA	4	25	X	X	X
Blanchard Lake FAS	0	4	0	X	X
Carpenter Lake FAS	1	5	0	X	0
Crystal Lake FAS	0	0	0	X	0
Elmo SRA	5	45	X	X	X
Finley Point SRA	0	22	X	X	X
Glen Lake FAS	2	10	X	X	X

State	Picnic Units	Camping Units	Swimming	Fishing	Boat Ramp
Montana Fish and Game Department (continued)					
Juniper Beach FAS	0	0	0	X	0
Kila Lake FAS	0	3	0	X	0
Lake Mary Ronan SRA	3	22	0	X	X
Logan SRA	5	20	X	X	X
Lone Pine SP	2	9	0	0	0
Loon Lake I FAS	0	0	0	X	0
Marl Lake FAS	0	0	0	X	0
Old Steel Bridge FAS	0	0	0	X	0
Pressentine Bar FAS	0	1	0	X	0
Rivers End FAS	0	0	0	X	X
Savage Lake FAS	0	0	0	X	0
Skyles Lake FAS	0	0	0	X	0
Sophie Lake FAS	1	7	X	X	X
Sportsman's Bridge FAS	2	2	0	X	X
Walstad SRA	5	0	X	X	X
Wayfarer's SRA	5	20	X	X	0
West Shore SP	4	52	X	X	X
Whitefish Lake SRA	9	40	X	X	X
Whitefish River FAS	0	0	0	X	0
Whitefish Satellite FAS	0	4	0	X	X
Woods Bay SRA	4	5	X	X	X
Yellow Bay SRA	5	45	X	X	X
Total	67	425	14	31	19

State	Picnic Units	Camping Units	Swimming	Fishing	Boat Ramp
Office of the State Forester					
Goat Creek	0	4	0	X	0
Point Pleasant	0	5	0	X	0
Soup Creek	0	5	0	0	0
Upper Whitefish	0	14	0	X	0
Total	0	28	0	3	0
Indian Reservations					
Blue Bay	5	20	X	X	X
Total	5	20	1	1	1
Total Selected Facilities Region 10	280	1781	33	113	47

MAJOR RECREATION RESOURCES

FLATHEAD NATIONAL FOREST

The information on the Flathead National Forest is provided through the courtesy of the Office of the Forest Supervisor.

RECREATION

The Flathead National Forest is one of a number of outstanding recreation attractions in northwest Montana. Glacier National Park borders the Forest to the north. Twenty-eight mile long, 120,320 acre Flathead Lake, Montana's largest natural body of water, is adjacent to the Forest on the southwest. Water-based recreation opportunities abound both interior and adjacent to the Flathead. Three major forks of the upper Flathead and major bodies of water such as Swan Lake, Hungry Horse Reservoir, Whitefish Lake and hundreds of other lakes, both warm and cold water, make this an outstanding recreation area. The Flathead has the opportunity to provide many recreation experience levels ranging from wilderness to modern. The fact that 60% of the Forest is undeveloped provides great latitude for management options. Classification as wilderness, of course, does not leave a great latitude for management from a legal sense.

Access to the Flathead comes from both east-west and north-south, by U. S. Highways 2 and 93, respectively. Another major north-south scenic route to the Flathead is by State Route 209. This highway comes through Seeley Lake and the Swan Valley. This valley provides jump-off points to the Bob Marshall Wilderness to the east and the proposed Mission Mountains Wilderness to the west.

The Glacier International Airport and the Burlington Northern Railroad also provide access for thousands of people who come to enjoy Glacier National Park, the Big Mountain Ski Area, and the Bob Marshall Wilderness from greater distances. These attractions are national in significance. Schafer airstrip in the Middle Fork currently provides access to the heart of the Forest's largest roadless area outside of classified wilderness. Many back country and float trips start from the interior at Schafer.

Forest access roads to areas located off the major highways are dirt or gravel surface, and the summer recreation traveler frequently encounters logging traffic on the narrow winding dusty roads.

Roads, to date, have been constructed primarily as log transportation facilities. They have not been designed or located to serve a recreation purpose even though people spend more of their recreation visit driving than in other recreation pursuits.

The Forest's trails constructed prior to the late 1930's also were constructed as transportation facilities and not to serve recreation purposes which is the primary use of the trails today. Road construction in recent years has resulted in easier access to more areas for more people. An accompanying decrease in trail construction, reconstruction and maintenance has resulted in impaired access in dispersed areas. The brushing-in and logging-up of old trails and lack of construction and betterment have put heavy use pressure on mainline trunk trails with little opportunity to disperse use.

Use of motorized recreation vehicles is increasing, primarily the snowmobile, motorscooter, 4-wheel drive and motorcycle. Private holdings are becoming more restrictive to public use; this trend is likely to continue. Glacier National Park will eventually have to limit the number of people who enter the Park, as the Forest will have to do in wildernesses. These restrictions will place greater dependency on unclassified portions of the Forest.

Hungry Horse Reservoir is not used to capacity, although use is increasing. People apparently prefer recreation found on the many natural lakes to the fluctuating water levels of Hungry Horse. Campground developments in this area are currently ahead of demands.

Jewel Basin Hiking Area is located in the north end of the Swan Range and is typical of other high areas in the region. It has a definite combination of resources and opportunities which make this area unique and outstanding. Its small size, inherent easy access, day use opportunities, closeness to town, high concentration of lakes, and classification for hiker-only access have made this area truly a jewel.

The Flathead is well known for its scenic mountain beauty. Clear cutting patches seen on many middle and foreground viewing areas of the Forest have changed the natural appearance of the landscape around many of our key viewing areas. Present day visitors place greater importance on the appearance of viewing areas than in past years.

The Flathead has outstanding opportunities for year-round recreation, exceptional scenery, water-oriented activities, and is close to attractions of national significance.

The Forest will not soon reach the extent of people saturation that more densely populated areas will experience. Coordinated land management planning will provide the best opportunity for orderly development and management of the recreation resource. In the past, the Flathead National Forest has planned solely within Forest boundaries. Private recreation businesses will be important partners in future planning efforts as well as the state, county, large private land owners, and other land managing agencies.

Our emphasis in the past on the Flathead has been on facilities and not on the total spectrum of recreation opportunities, the things people do, and the recreation experience, the things people feel. It should change toward the latter.

The local population and use impact on the Flathead comes from the Kalispell and surrounding area within 100 miles of the Forest. About 100,000 people in this radius are heavily dependent on the Flathead Forest for their outdoor recreation. Many people are drawn to the area in the summer from surrounding counties because of lack of boating sized lakes in their back yards. Also, the appeal of an abundance of high mountain fishing lakes in an attraction.

The Flathead is experiencing its greatest percentage increase in recreation activity in the winter months. Snowmobiling, ski touring and other forms of winter recreation are increasing at a rapid rate. Big Mountain Ski Area in Whitefish is the leading winter sport area. It provides some of the finest skiing in the northwest.

FLATHEAD NATIONAL FOREST

WILDERNESS

The Flathead National Forest contributes significantly to the present supply of Wilderness in the United States. Presently, one third of the Forest is classified as Wilderness. The Forest contains 25% of the wilderness resource in Region 1 and nearly 8% of the total National Wilderness Preservation System as it exists today.

The Bob Marshall (existing) and Mission Mountains (proposed) Wildernesses offer a variety of attractions and wilderness experiences, and contain a diversity of topography, plant communities and animal life. In the past, both have been traditionally summer and fall use areas, with consumption in mind, such as taking an elk or catching a fish. Present trends are toward such values as esthetics, solitude, taking only pictures and leaving only footprints.

Winter and spring use, snowshoeing, ski mountaineering and ski touring is starting.

Past use was strongly oriented to the taking of big game and fish. The grizzly bear played an important economic role with early-day commercial outfitters and mountain men.

Although overall use is still strongly oriented toward hunting and fishing, the trend is toward using the area for a wilderness experience. Diversity of activities is increasing, for example, back-packing, river floating, ski touring, snowshoeing, photography, fossil collecting and nature interpretation.

Organized group use and individual use is increasing each year. Small groups of back-packers are increasing, but seldom leave well established trails. Hiking use is increasing significantly and is becoming a dominant means of transportation equaling use by horseback riders. Many hunters, however, still depend upon the services of commercial outfitters. Dependency of outfitters is lessening due to mobility of the self-supporting hiker. Visitor stay averages about 7 - 10 days.

Early-day Forest Service personnel began developing a trail network into most of the area. They improved Indian and game trails following paths of least resistance. Through the years the present trail network evolved to what it is today. It is a system based upon fire control access and agency administration.

This trail system has established a chronic concentrated use pattern, resulting in overgrazing, campsite damage, and trampling in some areas, most notably along the South Fork of the Flathead River.

The Wilderness has a resident population of some rare and endangered species. These are the grizzly bear, west-slope cutthroat trout and the timber wolf. Habitat exists to offer these a chance for survival. Other important birds and animals found here include the osprey, bald eagle, golden eagle, wolverine, mountain lion, black bear, moose, Rocky Mountain goat and Rocky Mountain sheep.

Wildfire has not been allowed to create and maintain a natural mix of forest plant communities and species composition. Effective fire control for the past 40 years has resulted in unnatural fuel accumulations, decadent timber stands and the reduction of browse types. Herein lies man's most significant manipulation of the wilderness resource. Mixed emotions exist among the public whether to support or oppose "letting fires go".

The Bob Marshall presently has large roadless areas adjacent to its boundaries. Roads are being constructed in some of these areas, making access to the Wilderness easier and quicker. Cloud seeding in the South Fork drainage also has an effect on the Wilderness. Congress is considering a bill to add the Lincoln-Scapegoat areas southeast of the Bob Marshall to the Wilderness System.

A specific management plan for the Bob Marshall has been prepared that emphasizes wilderness as a resource.

Bob Marshall Wilderness

The Flathead National Forest contains 710,000 acres of the 950,000-acre Bob Marshall Wilderness. The remaining 240,000 acres of Wilderness are on the Lewis and Clark National Forest.

The Bob Marshall is characterized by large, broad and gentle valleys. These are surrounded by rugged mountain peaks and limestone cliffs. Elevations vary from the 4,000-foot valley floors to the 9,356-foot Holland Peak.

The Bob Marshall's size is a distinctive characteristic in itself. The Continental Divide runs north and south through the Bob Marshall forming the Forest boundary to the east. The South Fork of the Flathead River is the primary drainage in this portion of the Wilderness. Main valleys are broad and gentle with surrounding rugged mountain peaks characterized by huge limestone cliffs such as the Chinese Wall.

Generally, the area has a continuous timber cover reaching up to the alpine country. Most lakes lie in the higher portions of the Swan Range with the exception of Big Salmon Lake near the South Fork of the Flathead River. Many lakes have been planted and provide quality fishing.

Mission Mountains Primitive Area

The Mission Mountains Primitive Area is in the southwest portion of the Flathead National Forest. The area extends along the east slope of the Mission Range. Two paved highways are located east and west of the area in the Swan and Mission Valleys. Forest, farm, recreation and logging roads extend from these highways toward the boundaries.

The area was established October 31, 1931, under authority of Regulation L-20. With additions through land exchanges and acquisitions, the area now contains 74,558 acres. Most of the Mission Mountains Area on the Flathead Forest has been proposed for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Glaciation has produced high craggy peaks, vertical cliffs, knife-edged ridges and many amphitheater-like basins. Four permanent glaciers remain. Many alpine lakes are surrounded by open slopes with a profusion of summer season wild flowers. Along the Mission Divide, wind-deformed, grotesque shaped trees are a prominent feature. Clear, pure water cascades over bedrock streambeds to the Swan Valley. Topography, particularly in the southern portion, is extreme. Elevations vary from 4,500 feet to the 9,369-foot Lowary Peak. There are panoramic views of the Bob Marshall Wilderness, Glacier National Park and surrounding valleys.

There are about 150 lakes varying from small potholes to the 325-acre Gray Wolf Lake. Many have been stocked and provide fishing.

The historical name "Mission Mountains" is traced to the Catholic priests whose missionary endeavors with the Confederated Kootenai-Salish tribes contributed to the culture of the valley west of the Mission Mountains during the 19th century.

During the late 1800's and early 1900's, the Salish Indians crossed over the Mission Divide to hunt and fish. They developed most of the network of trails that exist today. Artifacts of this culture are occasionally found along shores of lakes and old campsites.

The Missions are particularly suited to hiker/backpacker use. The area has been used primarily by local Montana people for many years, but is becoming more popular nationally.

The long-range management direction is undetermined for the west slope of the Mission Mountains within the Flathead Indian Reservation. The Confederated Kootenai-Salish tribes have initiated a user-fee system. There are presently no indications that this portion of the Missions will be extensively roaded or logged. The tribes claim water rights on four lakes in the south end of the proposed Wilderness.

The area has been labelled as a critically narrow Wilderness. Extremely rugged terrain compensates for the short distances in the area. Day-use predominates with access and use concentrated around Crystal, Glacier and Cold Lakes. Soil and vegetative damage created by man is substantially noticeable in these areas.

The area is generally accepted as suitable for the hiker, back-packer and mountaineer. Organized group use is increasing in easy access areas. One commercial outfitter is now permitted. He outfits a Wilderness Society Walk supporting the group with stock.

This area also has a resident population of the rare and endangered westslope cutthroat trout and grizzly bear. The Rocky Mountain goat is present and offers an important attraction.

Most of the Mission Mountains is trail-less and offers the opportunity for a rugged, demanding wilderness experience. Broad management direction will emphasize a predominate foot travel area, influencing the nature of use from the outside.

GAME AND SPORT FISH

The Flathead Forest has as wide a variety of wildlife as is found in the 48 continuous States. It is the home of two species of rare and endangered animals, the grizzly bear and west-slope cutthroat. Other rare species found on the Forest include timber wolf, pine marten, arctic grayling. The wide variety of game and fish attract thousands of hungers and fishermen each year. The Flathead River system is unique for its runs of Dolly Varden and west-slope cutthroat and recognized nationally for its quality fishing.

Elk hunting in the Bob Marshall Wilderness attracts hunters from throughout the nation each fall. Optimum winter range conditions that created the large elk herds on the Flathead Forest in the 40's and 50's have declined. The deer herds have likewise declined somewhat, particularly in areas such as the Swan River drainage, due to lower carrying capacity than previously.

Roads have as much effect on big game and fisheries as any activity on the Forest. Roads for timber harvest have allowed access to additional areas every year. Contact between man and game has increased and allowed for a greater harvest of animals in a shorter period. Development and increased use of snowmobiles has created more harassment of big game on winter ranges. Closing of some roads is felt to be necessary to reduce the intrusion of man into calving areas for elk and wintering areas for deer and elk.

In the future, more road closures may be necessary to reduce the conflict between man and big game. This is particularly true with grizzly bear which has traditionally retreated as man has advanced. The grizzly bear population currently appears to be static.

The moose population is well managed and continues to be a big attraction for sightseers and hunters.

Little is known about the mountain goat and cougar populations and trends. The black bear population is providing good hunting opportunities each year.

Fisheries

Streams on the Flathead Forest are probably similar to their appearance shortly after the last glaciers melted. Fish populations are composed of those species that thrive in cold, unfertile water such as: the mountain whitefish, west-slope cutthroat and Dolly Varden. Species that have been introduced include: rainbow trout, eastern brook trout, kokanee, arctic grayling, California Golden trout and Yellowstone cutthroat. The most important fish species are still the native west-slope cutthroat and Dolly Varden. Mountain whitefish comprise a high percentage of the fish population in some areas. Rough fish population have shown some increase with changes in the habitat that allows them to become established. Stream habitat has been affected by silt from logging and road building. Road crossings have created migration barriers on many streams on the Forest, and many miles of spawning habitat is not used to the fullest extent.

Construction of Hungry Horse Dam on the South Fork blocked the passage of fish from Flathead Lake. Since Hungry Horse Reservoir filled, a reservoir-oriented fish population has become established in the South Fork.

Most of the lakes on the Forest that will support fish, including the Bob Marshall and Mission Mountains Wilderness Areas, have been stocked. Present fish planting is limited to the west-slope cutthroat in the form of fry. Rainbow trout were introduced in the Bob Marshall Wilderness on a limited basis and present plans call for no further stocking of rainbow in the Wilderness.

Present management policy on the Flathead River is to maintain the excellent runs of Dolly Varden and west-slope cutthroat out of Flathead Lake. Natural reproduction by the native species receives the most emphasis.

FLATHEAD LAKE

In the enormously attractive recreational area that is northwest Montana, Flathead Lake is considered by many to be the main attraction. This huge lake of nearly 200 square miles and 128 miles of shoreline is the largest fresh water lake in the western United States. Suffice it to say that the recreational attractions are immense. The quality of the fishing, too extensive to be reported in detail here, is noted far and wide. The facilities provided by the private sector are extensive and a number of access areas are provided by the state. Paved highways adjoin much of the lake, providing visual access for those unable to get to the shore itself. It must be noted also that the highway itself limits use of the waterfront to a certain degree.

While the attractions of the lake and its environs are widely known, there are other basic and very significant aspects that are not well understood.

There is a tendency to confuse recreational attraction with the actual opportunity to engage in a given pursuit. Despite the 128 mile shoreline of the lake, less than three miles of frontage are available to the general public. While there is access at present by the private sector, there is no guarantee that it will remain.

Despite its huge size, the lake is not available to the general public in a manner commensurate with the latent demand and with the potential that exists on the lake.

Areas presently owned by the public sector (the state) are not necessarily the choicest properties, and several are lacking in the natural resource amenities found elsewhere on the lake. Several areas are very small in relation to potential public use. Existing areas are very crowded in season and much of the public cannot use the facilities as desired. The proportion of accessible waterfront in relation to the entire lake is very small.

Flathead Lake is a rather unique fishery and the management for a sustained recreational fishery has very broad implications. Unlike most other lakes, a large part of its fish population migrates for long distances up the tributaries, there to spawn and complete the life cycle. The progency, after spending a portion of their lives in the tributary, migrate back to the lake in the life cycle that is the lot of many of the species in this water. The interdependence of the lake and its tributaries is critical, and the free flowing streams that sustain the fishery are as significant to fishing as is the lake itself.

Maintenance of water quality in the lake is basic to the longer range success of the region as a recreation attraction. The problem is compounded by the extensive private holdings around the lake with the difficulty in monitoring the effects, direct and indirect, upon the water. The Department of Fish and Game, together with the Board of Health, conduct continuing tests on the lake to detect possible pollution. The attraction of the lake could, in the absence of resource management, generate the very actions that would destroy its present desirability as a fishery.

Despite the current fishing activity on the lake, limits are liberal and the lake can withstand considerably more pressure than is currently the case.

UPPER FLATHEAD RIVER

The Flathead River above Flathead Lake is divided into three main tributaries, the North Fork, the Middle Fork, and the South Fork. The fishing in all of these is worthy of special mention and consists principally of cutthroat, Dolly Varden and mountain whitefish. During the fall, concentrations of kokanee are available for snagging.

The tributaries of the Flathead drain over half of the Glacier Park area. The North Fork and the Middle Fork are interdependent with Flathead Lake in terms of the life cycle of the major species. The South Fork no longer functions in this manner due to the construction of Hungry Horse Dam. Management of the tributaries is important to the fishing opportunity, as well as maintenance of the natural ecosystem. Free flowing streams of clear clean water are basic to the fishery.

Fishing access sites on the tributary system include Sportsman Bridge, Old Steel Bridge, and Pressentine Bar.

The tributaries of the Flathead are exceptionally scenic in quality and as such were designated by Congress for study as potential additions to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. Accordingly, the staff of the Flathead National Forest undertook a detailed study and has published their recommendations for proposed classifications of segments of the streams. Details of the study are available from the Flathead National Forest. It is intended that the information will become a part of the appendix to the plan as that section is expanded.

In addition to the fishing and scenic qualities, the tributaries have a high potential for river floating in given segments, and this information is likewise being made available.

SWAN LAKE, SWAN RIVER AND VALLEY

The Swan River drains into Flathead Lake from Swan Lake. The drainage is about 60 miles long and is comprised of many miles of excellent trout fishing of various kinds. Headwaters of the Swan River are Holland and Lindbergh Lakes. (Approximately 2/3 of the drainage is in this planning region.)

Developed recreation sites on this river are the Big Fork Fishing Access (Loon Lake Fishing Access is close to the river) and Swan Lake Campground, a Forest Service development.

Swan Lake and its forest setting are a scenic attraction of the Swan Valley and provides excellent fishing as well. The lake is approximately 10 miles long with a frontage of approximately 25 miles. Of this total, less than five miles of shoreline are on U. S. Forest Lands, with the remainder privately owned. There is one developed site provided by the Forest Service.

An additional combined roadside rest area, viewpoint and picnic area would be a desirable addition to the facilities due to the existing and potential demand.

KOOTENAI NATIONAL FOREST

(The information on the Kootenai is provided through the courtesy of the office of the Forest Supervisor)

The Kootenai National Forest is located in the extreme northwestern corner of the state and occupies 1,800,000 acres of heavily timbered mountain and foothills. A more humid climate gives the forest a somewhat different character than other forests in the state, with a more luxuriant vegetation and dense stands of timber. Its water resources are exceptional with clear fast moving streams and pristine lakes. The Kootenai River is the dominant feature, with its blue-green waters contributing significantly to the Columbia Basin Drainage. Libby Dam, under construction on the Kootenai, will be a major water resource of the region.

Several mountain ranges are located partially or entirely within the forest. In the southwest portion are found the Cabinet Mountains, in the north central are the Purcell Mountains and in the eastern sector are the Salish Mountains. A small portion of the Whitefish range is found in the extreme northeast region.

AREAS OF SPECIAL INTEREST

Ross Creek Scenic Area, easily accessible from Highway 202 is a 100 acre tract established to protect and preserve a virgin stand of giant cedars. The plot is closed to other than recreational use and is managed for its scientific and aesthetic values. More than 10,000 people visit the area each year.

A one mile self-guided nature trail takes the visitor through a cool, shady, and quiet forest plant community dominated by the gigantic and ancient red cedars. Flying squirrels and the luxuriant ferns are features of interest as well.

A picnic area is provided on Ross Creek which flows through the area.

Cabinet Mountains Wilderness

The Wilderness takes its name from the mountains comprising its general area of 94,272 acres. The wilderness is found in equal portions in both Sanders and Lincoln Counties, in the Kootenai and Kaniksu Forests, and thus also about equally distributed between the two planning regions 11 and 10.

It is a series of prominent peaks rising high above the surrounding timbered valleys and ridges and contains some of the most beautiful alpine scenery in western Montana. There are snowclad peaks and glacial lakes, cold streams and cascading waterfalls, mountain goats and other big game animals; large specimen of white pine and western cedar trees. There is hunting for big game, fishing, hiking, riding, and camping all oriented to the special values of undisturbed natural beauty. Trails lead into the area from all sides of the wilderness.

Wanless Lake is a noted feature. The wilderness is relatively accessible from both Highway No. 2 and Highway No. 10. The Bull River Highway, No. 202, provides an excellent view of the entire length of the wilderness, a distance of 35 miles.

Turner Mountain Ski Area

This recreation area is locally financed and developed under a special permit for the Forest Service. It is located 23 miles north of Libby and the facilities include a mile long T-Bar lift, a rope tow, warming hut, concessions and ski shop. The development is situated on 5,590 foot Turner Mountain.

Ten Lakes Scenic Area

This is an area of 6,541 acres, providing an exceptionally scenic grouping of alpine lakes. A beautiful high mountain ridge dominates the region, which includes the small glaciated basins and mountain meadows. The area is accessible by trails useable by foot or horseback. The area is northeast of Eureka, and is adjoined by the province of British Columbia.

Northwest Peak Scenic Area

This unusual area is located in the extreme northwest corner of the state, adjoined by Idaho and Canada. This is a roadless 6,544 acres sub-alpine mountain ridge area, containing seven small lakes. Gnarled alpine larch add to the interest of the area. Travel is mainly cross-country hiking and only one trail enters the area.

Kootenai Falls

A spectacular falls on the Kootenai River along U.S. Highway No. 2, 11 miles west of Libby. The site is at the northern tip of the Cabinet Mountains Wilderness.

Vermiculite Mountain

This mountain, a few miles north of Libby, is the largest deposit of vermiculite in the world. It is mined from an open pit.

Libby Dam and Reservoir

Located on the Kootenai River 15 miles east of Libby is Libby Dam. This structure is 3,055 feet long at the crest, and 370 feet above the streambed. Lake Koocanusa behind the dam is 90 miles in length at full pool and extends 42 miles into Canada.

Lake Koocanusa Bridge

This bridge crosses the reservoir several miles southwest of the town of Rexford, and is the longest and highest bridge in the State of Montana. The bridge structure is 2,437 feet long and the finished roadway is over 290 feet above the streambed.

GENERAL RECREATION

Recreational use of the Kootenai forest provides many pleasant opportunities for fishing, camping, picnicking, hunting, boating, swimming, water skiing, hiking, horseback riding, winter sports, huckleberry picking, strolling on the easily navigated trails, and simply enjoying the forest environment.

Over 1000 miles of forest service roads lead deep into the forest, providing access to shaded streams, swampy moose pastures, remnants of old homesteads and to the lookout towers. The timber is often very tall, dense and contains a luxuriant undergrowth in the more open areas. Since many of the roads were constructed for other purposes initially, they may be subject to closure as the resources management plans change. Recreation use will always be a significant factor in planning for the use of the roads. Game management plans dictate that such animals as elk be afforded large roadless, secure areas for calving and range.

Campers and picnickers will find many developed camps and picnic areas. For those wishing to camp or picnic alone, there are hundreds of isolated unimproved spots for the family group. Small trailers are accommodated at the campgrounds; however, there are no utility hookups for water, sewage or electricity.

There are a total of 28 developed areas on the forest providing approximately 260 camp units and approximately 60 family picnic units. Special points of interest include the Ross Creek Cedar Grove with facilities and the Kootenai Falls and Yak Falls areas which are developed as viewpoints. Libby Dam will subsequently have a significant number of development units.

The Kootenai is home for a number of game species including the moose, elk, mountain sheep, bear, and white-tailed and mule deer. Mountain goats remain in the high ridges and slopes of the Cabinet Mountains. The Franklin, blue, and ruffed grouse is found and fishing is plentiful and varied. Winter whitefishing on the Kootenai is excellent.

From late July to early September huckleberry picking is a much enjoyed activity, with the visitor also taking the wild raspberry and the blackcaps that grow in the forest.

LAKE KOOCANUSA

Plans for Recreation Development

The Forest Service will provide a variety of public recreation developments related to Lake Koocanusa and its surrounding forest environment. Additional services will be offered for concessionaire developments under special use permits.

As of May, 1972, the only existing facility on the lake was a 55-unit campground at McGillivray. Initial development will include both federal and commercial facilities. As the demand develops, other facilities will be constructed.

Potential Development Sites

1. McGillivray - This 55-unit campground on the east shore of the lake, five miles above the dam, can be expanded as the demand for facilities increases.

2. Rexford Bench - This site near the town of Rexford, Montana, will be offered for the development of an 80-acre resort and marina with camping of between 50-100 units. A government constructed boat ramp is also programmed for development.

3. Cripple Horse Creek - About 80 acres of the site will be offered for the development of a resort and marina. Camping facilities are also planned for development by the concessionaire. A boat ramp is programmed for development by the Forest Service.

4. Boat-access campsites are planned for Yarnell Islands, Parsnip Creek and Gateway. Initially 20 to 30 campsites are planned for development.

5. Rocky Gorge - This attractive site can be developed as a campground with a boat ramp by the Forest Service, as the demand requires.

6. Tobacco Plains - This large attractive 323-acre area near Eureka, Montana, can be developed for camping as the demand for this activity increases. Other related facilities would be included if the Forest Service develops this area.

7. Canyon Creek - This 235-acre area two miles north of the dam on the east shore of the lake would be developed for camping and other related activities, as the demand for these facilities require additional development.

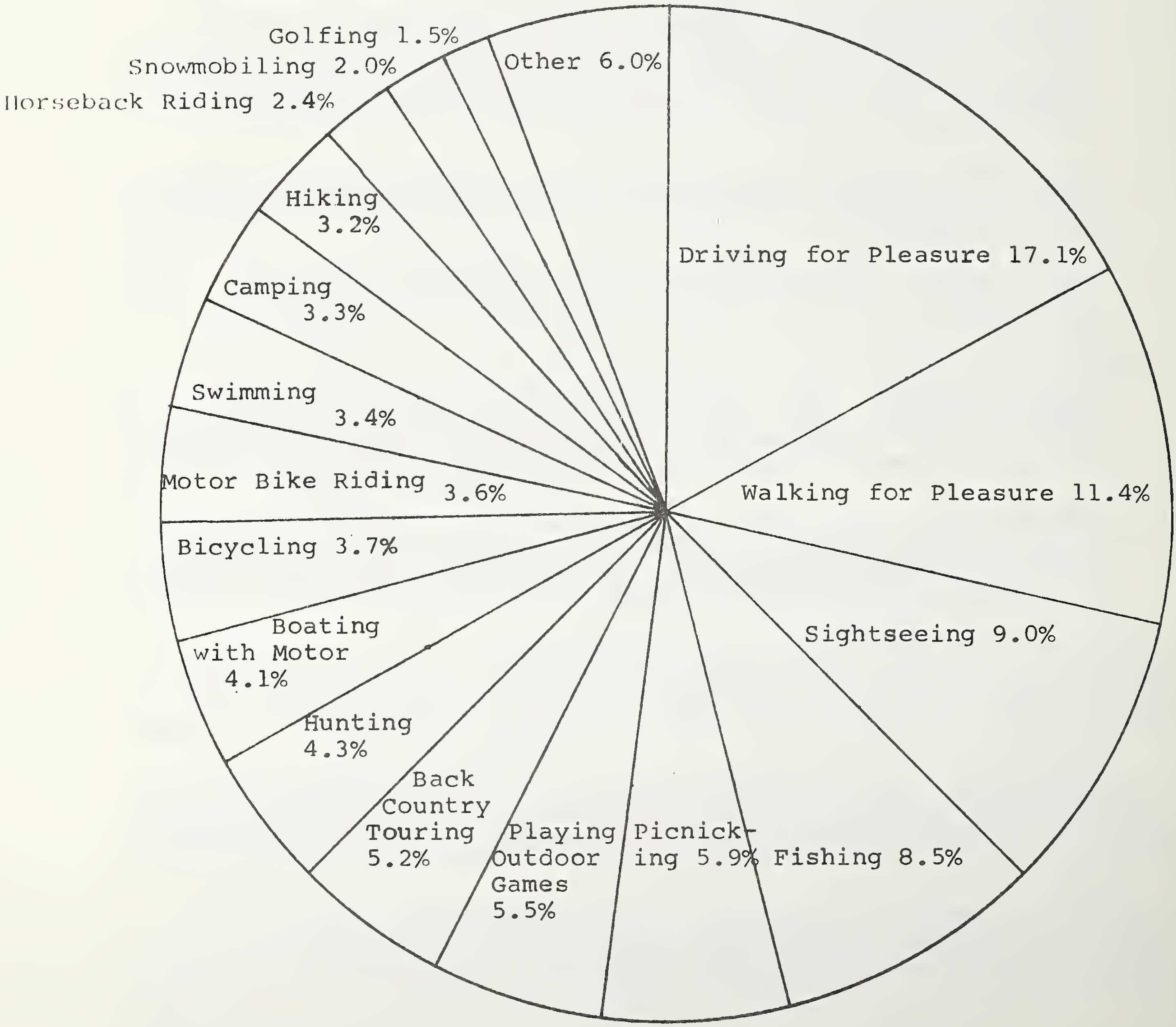
These sites are the priority developments on Lake Koocanusa. Other sites are available for development as campgrounds, picnic areas, swimming areas, boat ramps, overlooks, organization camps, etc., as the demand for these facilities develops.

Facilities for handicapped persons will be considered at recreation sites. Winter use for snowmobiles, cross-country skiing, etc., will also be considered in recreational planning for the reservoir area.

As the demand for recreation facilities develops, and as funding for recreational construction is made available, recreational development will be provided.

PLANNING REGION 10

Frequency of Participation in Selected Outdoor Recreation Activities by Montana Residents- Yearly Average



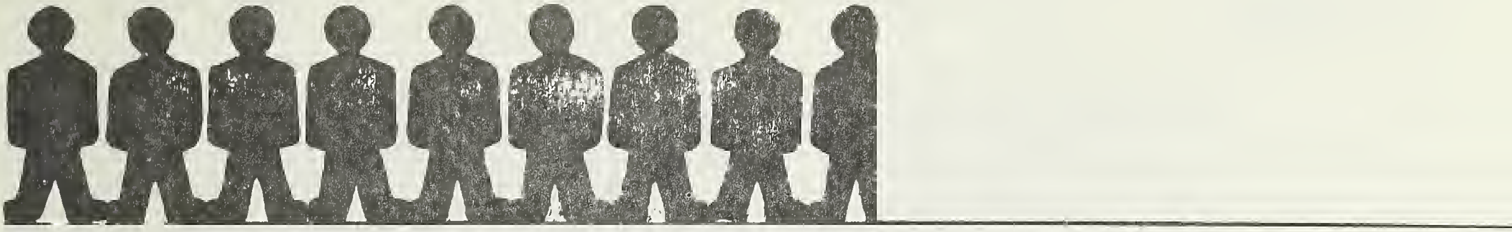
The above percentages represent an activity's portion of all recreation time.

PLANNING REGION 10

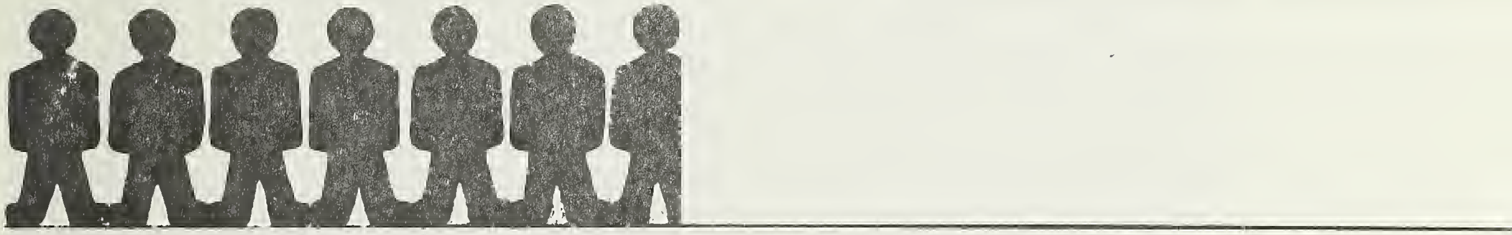
Leisure Time Activities Engaged in by Montana Residents - Yearly Average

Each man equals 5 responses

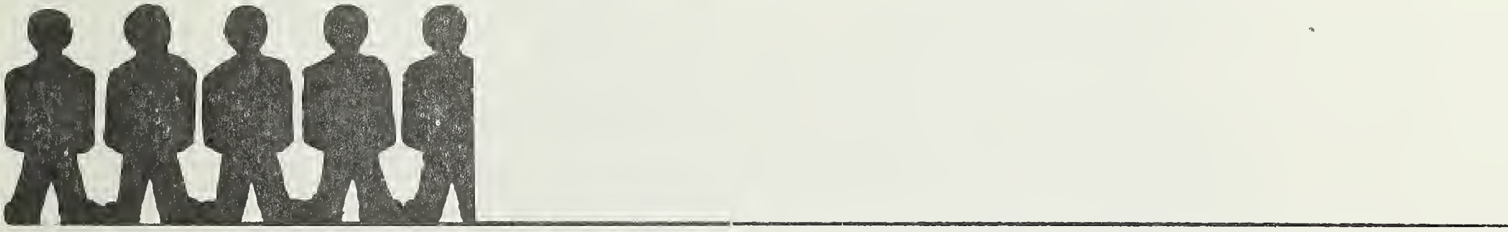
Indoor spectator activities (43.2)



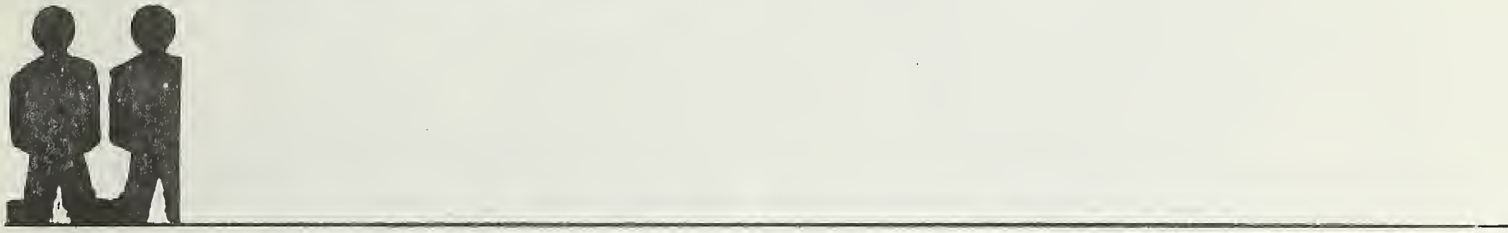
Social activities (33.0)



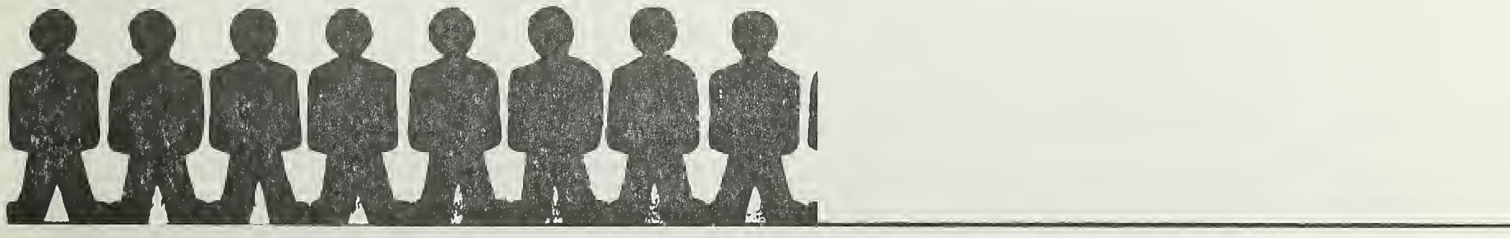
Indoor play activities (24.3)



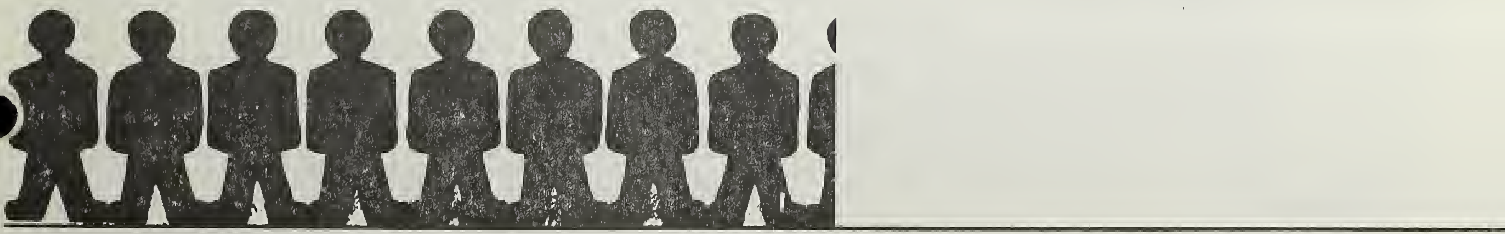
Self improvement activities (8.1)



Home related activities (40.7)



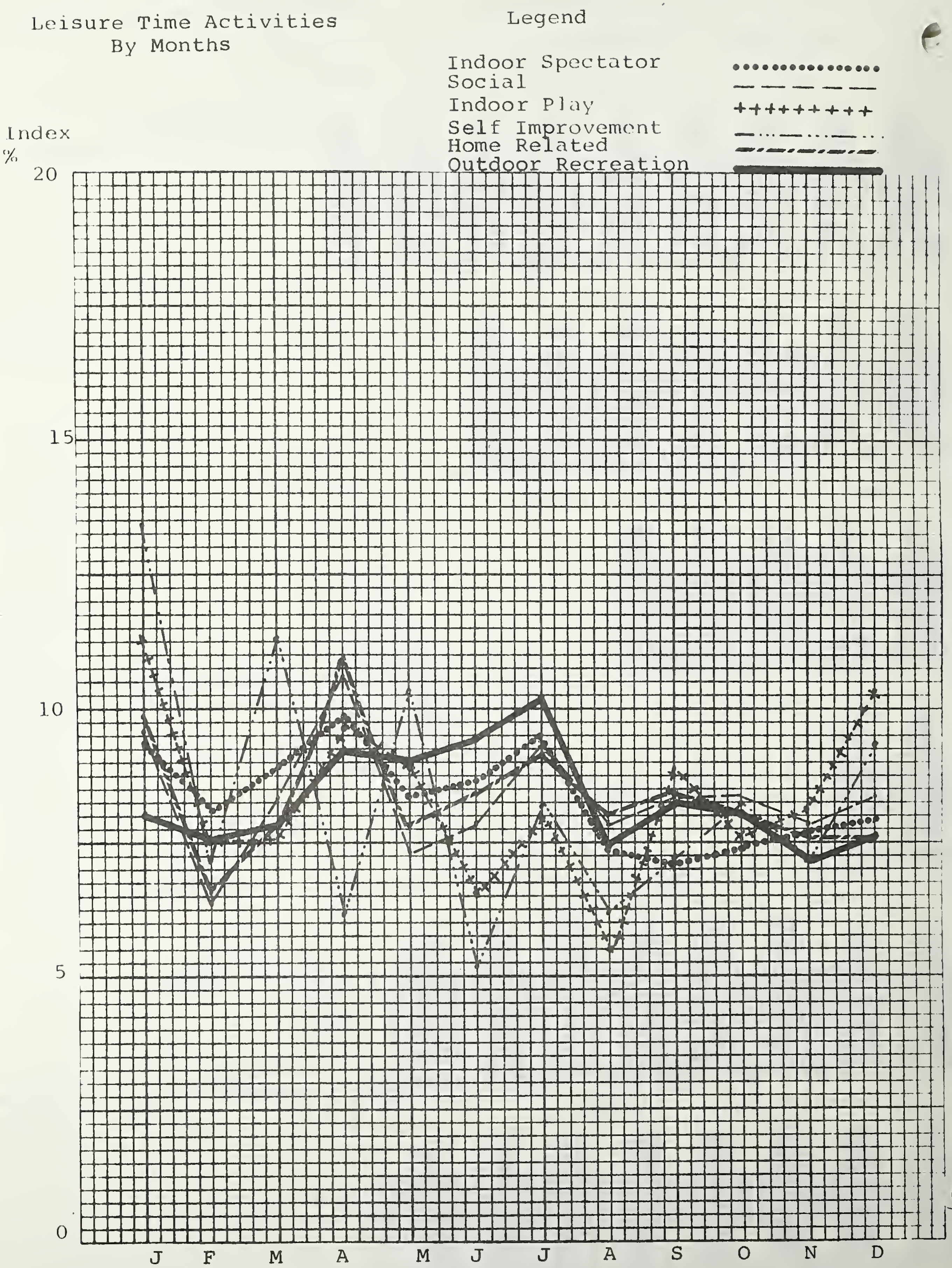
Outdoor recreation (41.5)

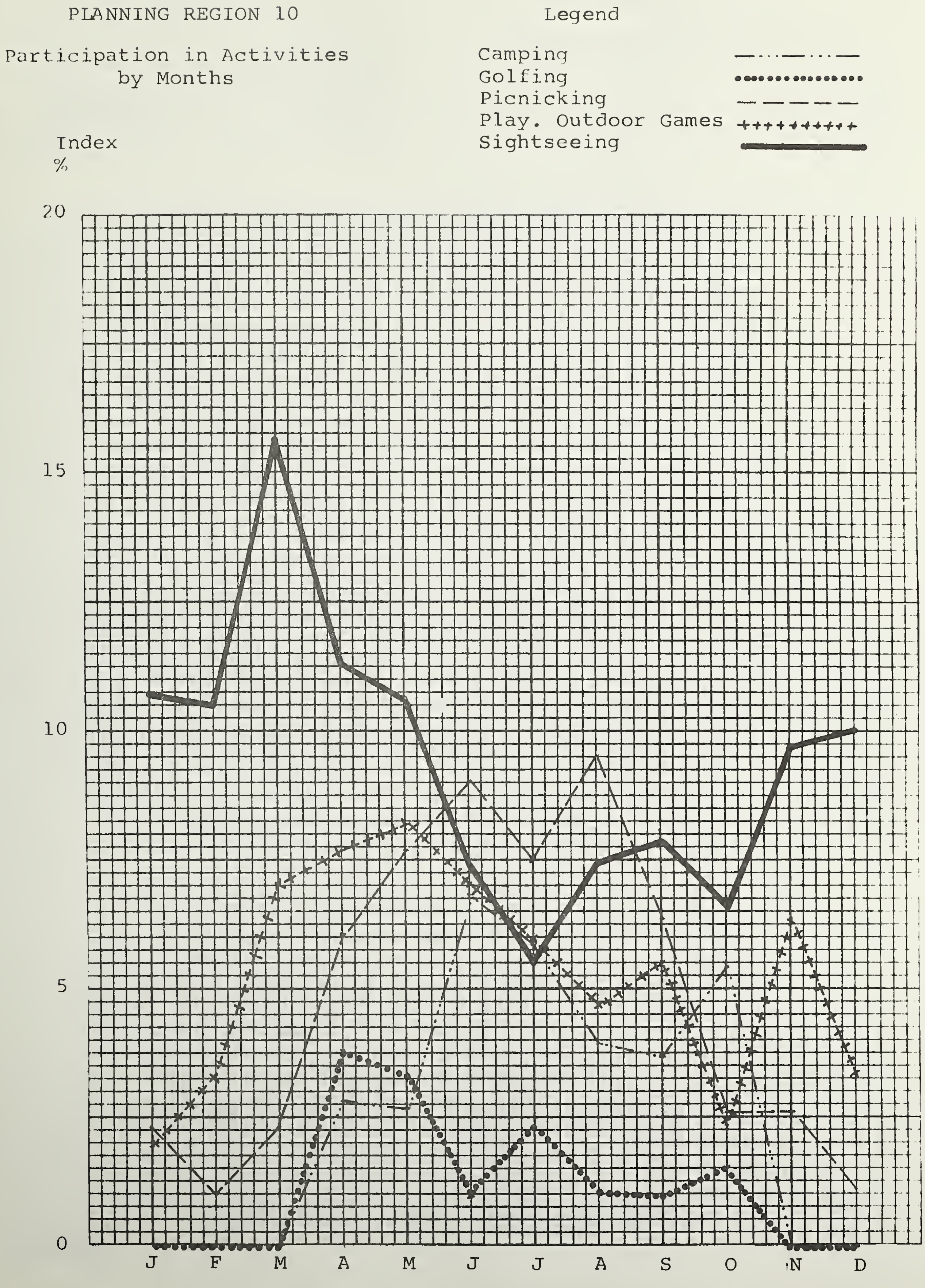


Above numbers indicate the average monthly responses from surveyed residents in the planning region.

PLANNING REGION 10

Leisure Time Activities
By Months





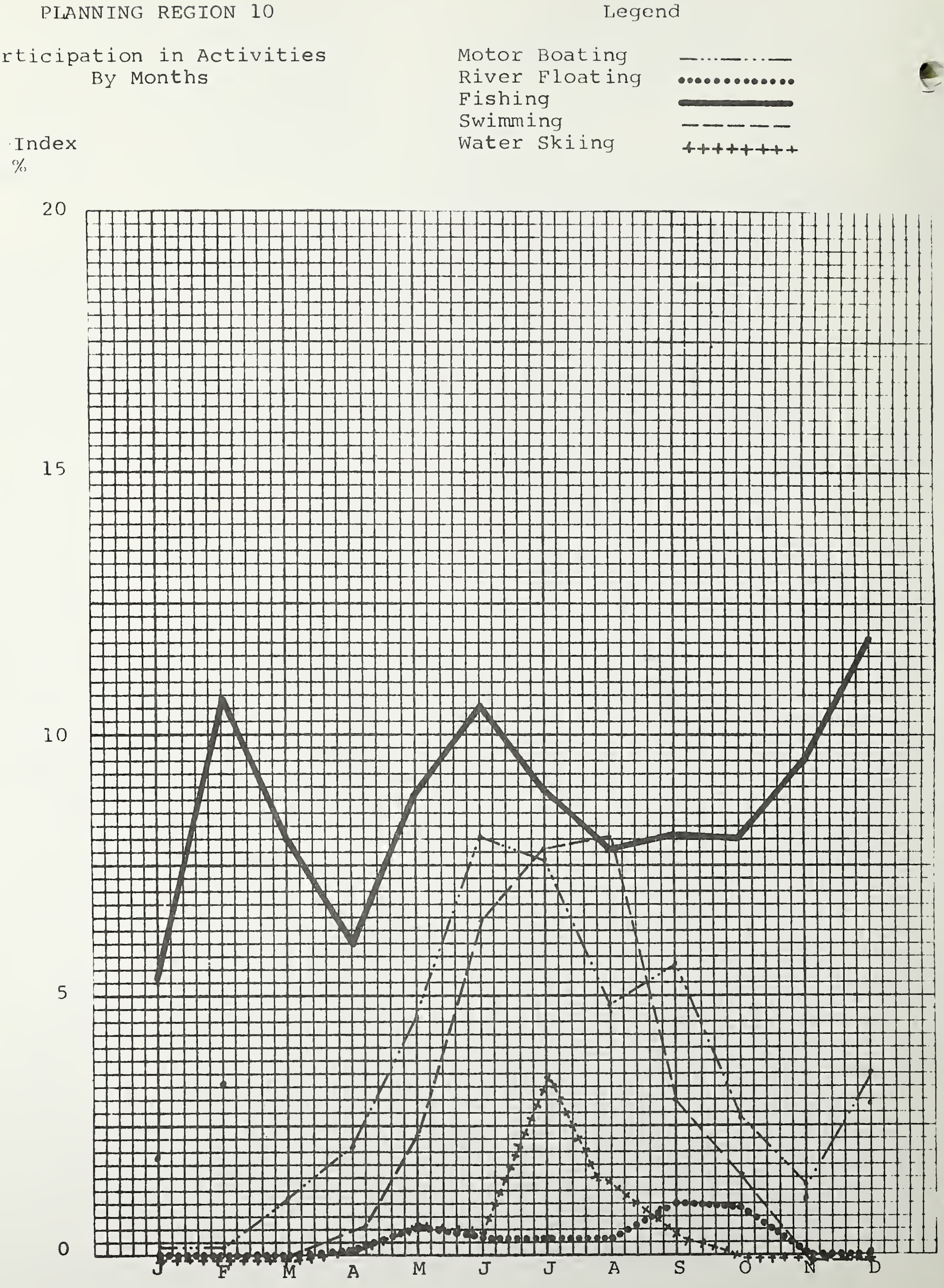
PLANNING REGION 10

Participation in Activities by Months

Activities Concentrated in One Area

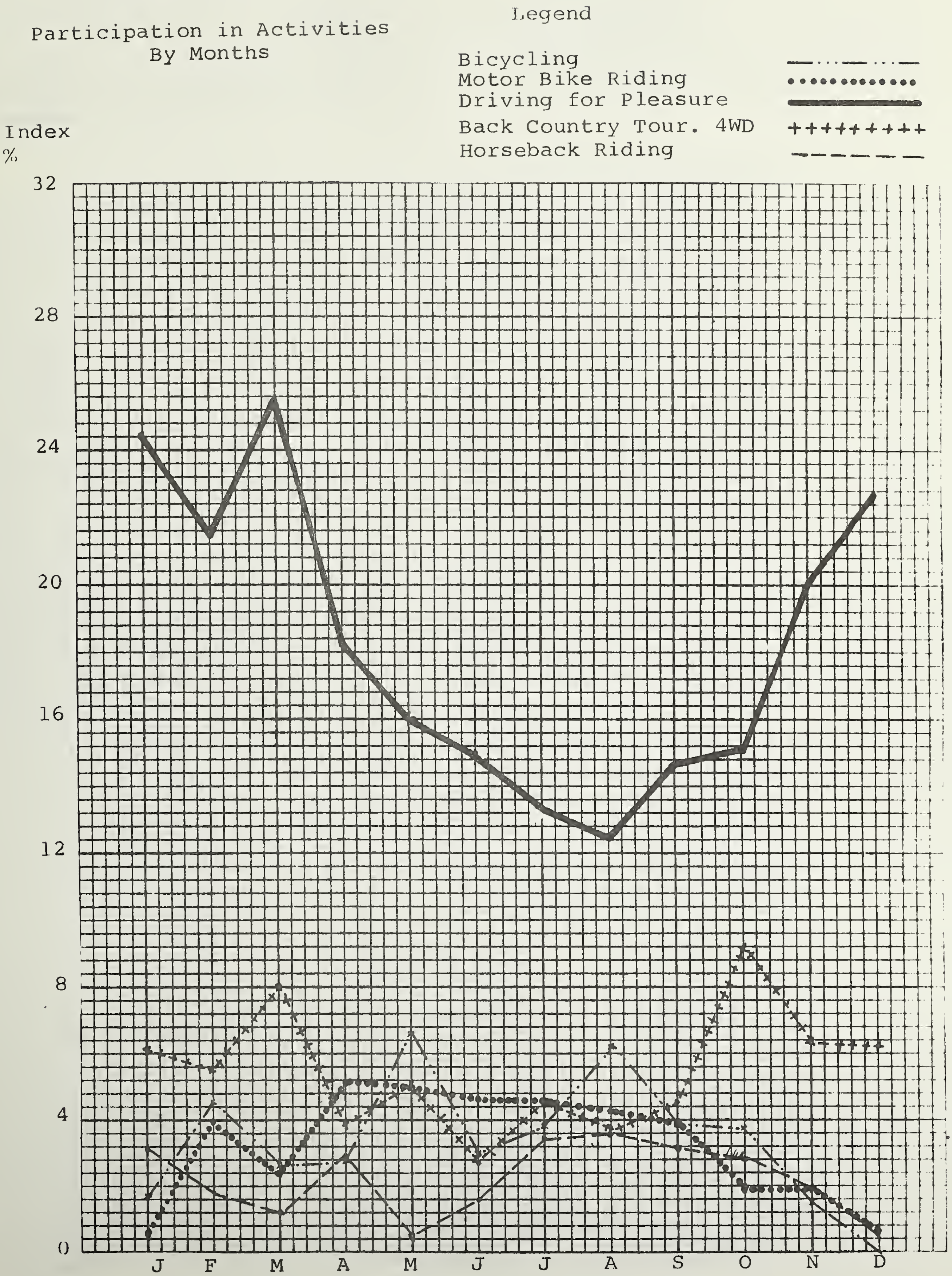
PLANNING REGION 10

Participation in Activities
By Months



PLANNING REGION 10

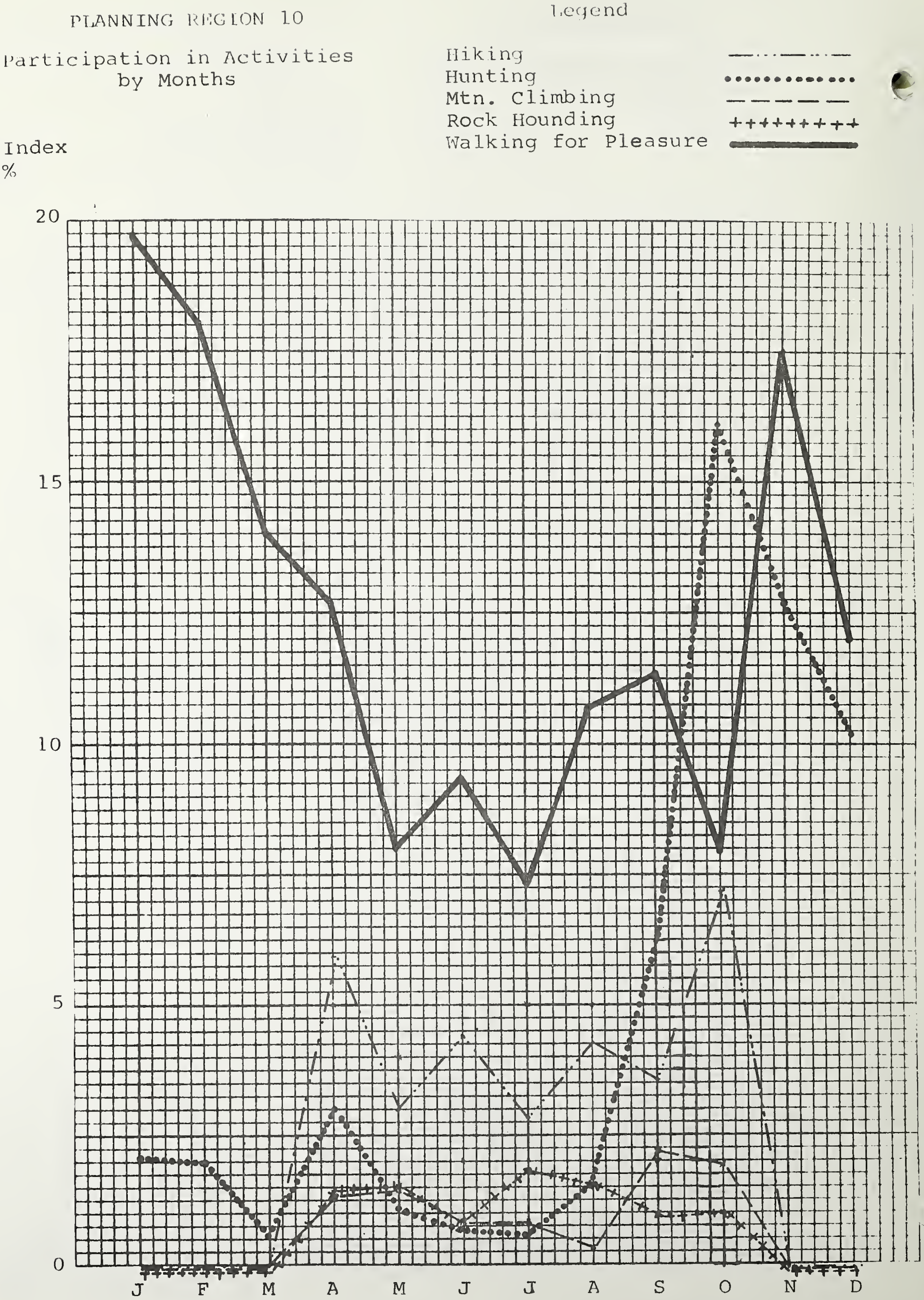
Participation in Activities
By Months



Traveling Activities - Vehicle Needed

PLANNING REGION 10

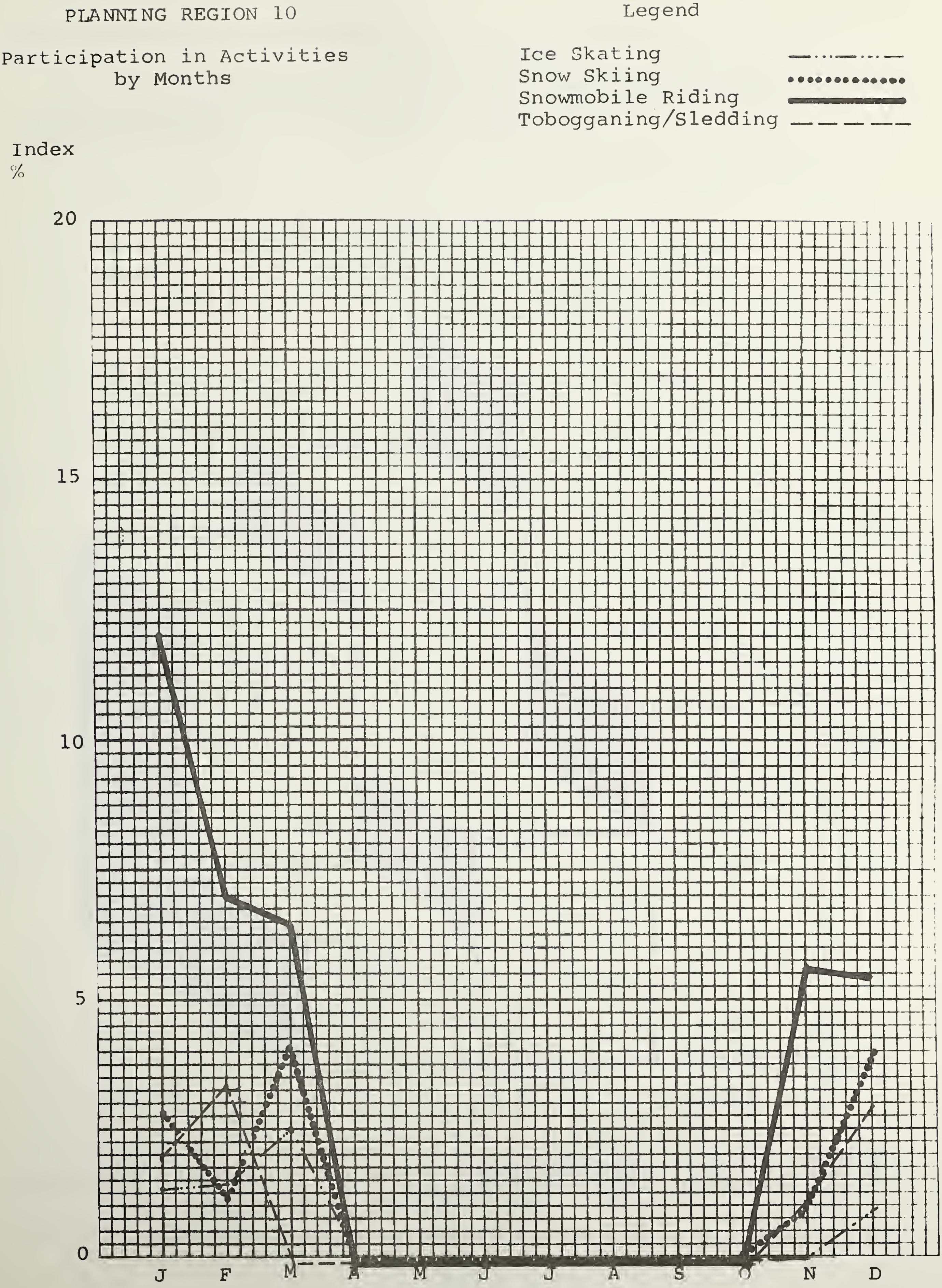
Participation in Activities
by Months



Traveling Activities w/wo Vehicle

PLANNING REGION 10

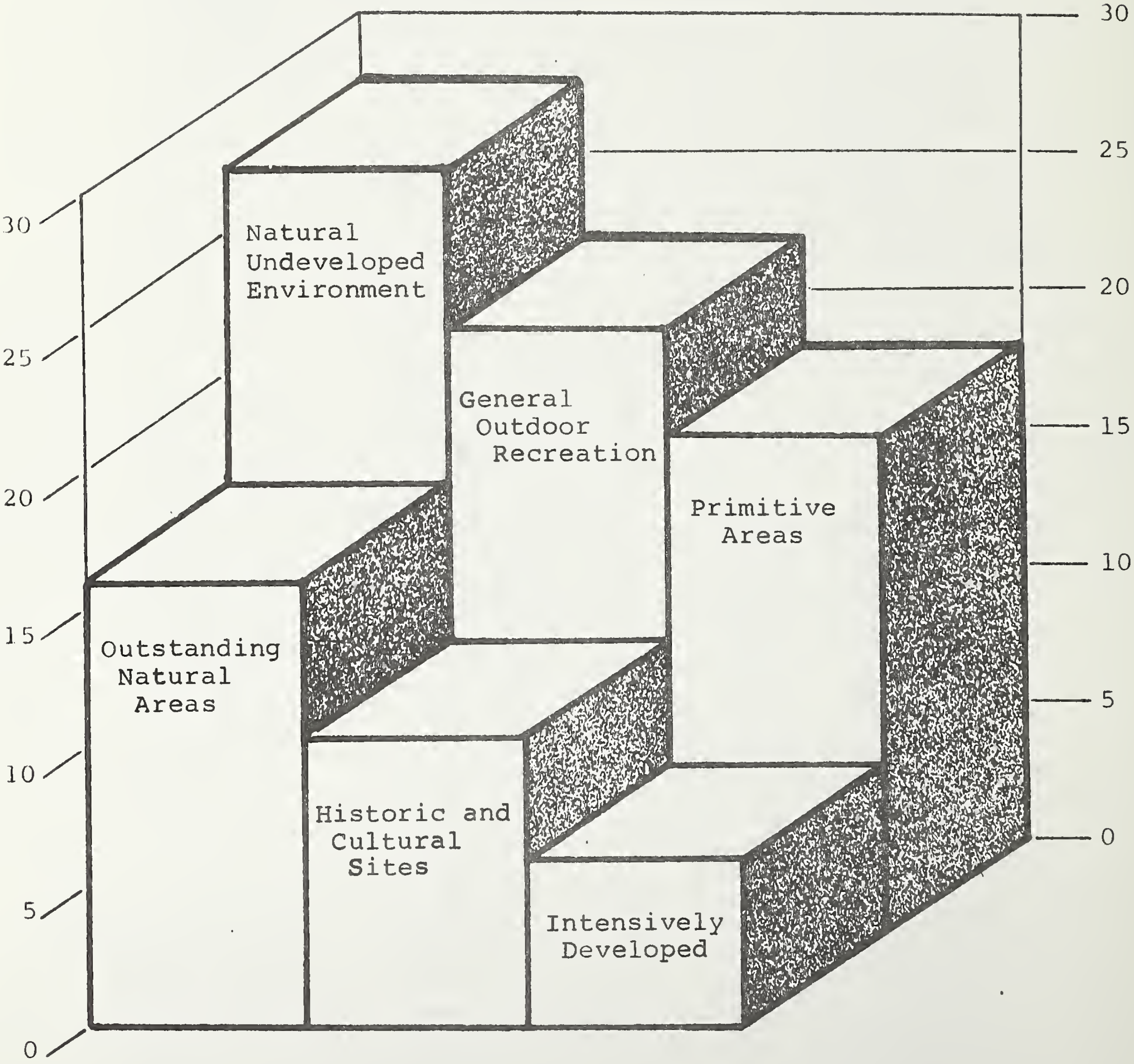
Participation in Activities by Months



Winter Activities

PLANNING REGION 10

Preferences for Selected Types of Recreation Areas by Montana Residents
Yearly Totals



Numbers indicate a weighted percent based on the number of responses to first, second, and third preferences.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT RECREATION SUMMARY REGION 10

The following chart tabulates facilities available for recreation in the municipalities of Eureka, Libby, and Whitefish.

MUNICIPAL FACILITIES

MUNICIPALITIES	1970 POPULATION	1972 PARK ACREAGE	Golf	Swimming Pool	Tennis	Multi-Purpose Courts	Baseball or Softball	Football	Children's Playgrounds	Large All Purpose Playfields	Picnic Areas	Designated Bike Trails	Indoor Recreation Centers	Facilities for the Handicapped	Special Accommodations for the Handicapped
Eureka	1,195	2									x				
	Facility Needs:			N											
Libby	3,286	25	x	x	x		x		x		x			x	
	Facility Needs:			N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
Whitefish	3,349	6	x		x		x	x	x	x	x				
	Facility Needs:			N											
	Facility Needs:														
	Facility Needs:														
	Facility Needs:														
	Facility Needs:														

Recreation and parks expenditures, which include money for maintenance operation, personnel, acquisition, and development are tabulated below:

MUNICIPAL EXPENDITURES

	F. Y. 1970	F. Y. 1971	F. Y. 1972
Eureka	$ 4,237	$ 5,005	$ 5,061
Libby	13,615	13,705	19,074
Whitefish	15,000	15,000	15,000

Eureka considers a swimming pool as its highest priority. Community interest in development of recreational facilities is very high. To date the following has been accomplished:

EUREKA LIONS CLUB:
Sponsored and funded the tennis courts which were constructed on the High School grounds. The new tennis facilities will be available for use by the schools and the community.

An indoor recreation and rehabilitation center for the Eureka Senior Citizens Association has been established and is in operation.

EUREKA SKI CLUB:
Constructing a ski run. This is to be operational this year.

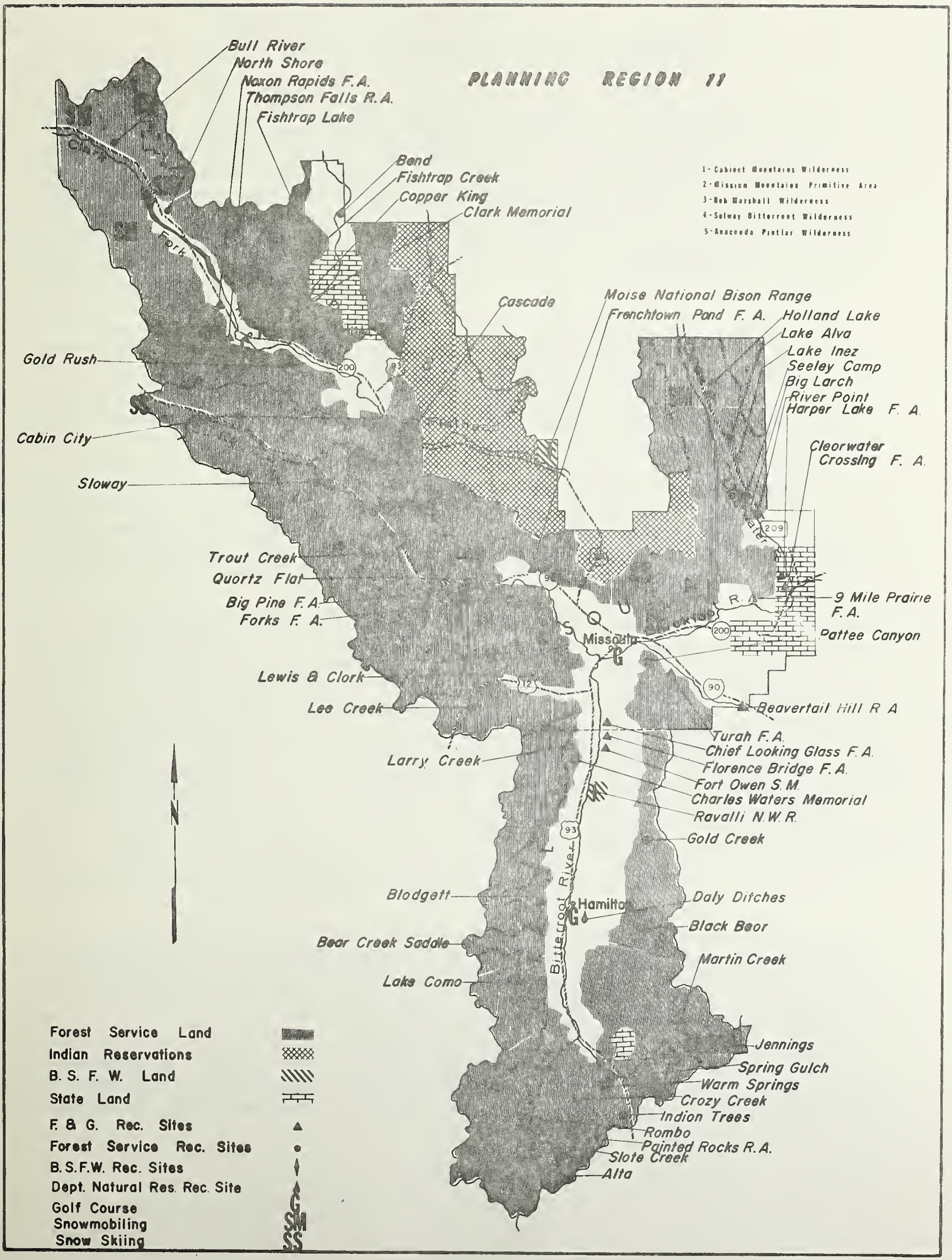
There is an outdoor ice skating rink on the school grounds for the community to enjoy. It is maintained by the town. A community indoor swimming pool is now under discussion by the town, Lions Club, and interested citizens. The town is in the process of rehabilitating Riverside City Park to the onset of the tourist season.

Libby considers a swimming pool, large all purpose playfields, picnic areas, and facilities for the handicapped as major priorities. The construction of Libby Dam has increased recreation opportunity greatly in the area, although not necessarily within the community.

State assistance is needed both in planning and in funding. Legislation is needed to assist in preservation of natural resources and for the use of highway funds to publicize gateways to Montana. It is felt that the B.O.R. program should be administered by the National Park Service or the Department of Agriculture. At the state level, the program should be placed under the State Department of Highways.

The major problem confronting Libby is the completion and construction of a comprehensive plan for neighborhood development.

Whitefish recreation opportunity has been increased area-wide, but not necessarily within the community, by the facilities at Big Mountain. Low water in Whitefish Lake decreases use in late summer. Additional land bordering the lake is needed to increase recreation opportunity, and state assistance is needed to help obtain such land. The lack of funds for operation and maintenace of present parks is the biggest problem for Whitefish.


PLANNING REGION 11

1-Cabinet Mountains Wilderness
2-Mission Mountains Primitive Area
3-Bob Marshall Wilderness
4-Selway Bitterroot Wilderness
5-Anaconda Pintlar Wilderness
Bull River
North Shore
Noxon Rapids F.A.
Thompson Falls R.A.
Fishtrap Lake
Bend
Fishtrap Creek
Copper King
Clark Memorial
Cascade
Moise National Bison Range
Frenchtown Pond F. A.
Holland Lake
Lake Alva
Lake Inez
Seeley Camp
Big Larch
River Point
Harper Lake F. A.
Clearwater Crossing F. A.
Gold Rush
Cabin City
Sloway
Clark Fork
Flathead
Trout Creek
Quartz Flat
Big Pine F.A.
Forks F. A.
9 Mile Prairie F.A.
Pattee Canyon
Missoula
Lewis & Clark
Lee Creek
Beavertail Hill R A
Turah F.A.
Chief Looking Glass F.A.
Florence Bridge F.A.
Fort Owen S.M.
Charles Waters Memorial
Ravalli N.W.R.
Larry Creek
Gold Creek
Blodgett
Daly Ditches
Hamilton
Black Bear
Bear Creek Saddle
Martin Creek
Lake Como
Bitterroot River
Jennings
Spring Gulch
Warm Springs
Crazy Creek
Indian Trees
Rombo
Painted Rocks R.A.
Slate Creek
Alta
200
90
12
93
209
N
Forest Service Land
Indian Reservations
B. S. F. W. Land
State Land
F. & G. Rec. Sites
Forest Service Rec. Sites
B.S.F.W. Rec. Sites
Dept. Natural Res. Rec. Site
Golf Course G
Snowmobiling SM
Snow Skiing SS

SUMMARY OF MAJOR RECREATION PROBLEMS

Region 11, like other western regions, has a wealth of recreation resources and a great diversity of opportunities existing or potentially available for its residents and visitors. Missoula, the population hub of the region, is centrally located and thus has relatively convenient access to a variety of sources for recreation. The nature of the region is such, however, that there are basically two sub-regions, namely the Bitterroot Valley to the south and the Clarks Fork Valley and environs to the northwest.

As with other recreationally popular regions, it is the prospects for the intensification of present serious problems that is of most concern to its residents. While there are numerous deficiencies today, the continued increase in visitation bodes for more stringent environmental problems tomorrow. With present recreational use already far in advance of present planning, it is imperative that more specific and more comprehensive plans be undertaken immediately. The need for the combined efforts of the federal, state and local levels of government, together with the contributions and efforts of the private sector, are evident in providing solutions for current and future problems.

A rather singular problem exists with respect to the major population center of Missoula and vicinity. While urban recreational facilities are generally available and while there is comparatively easy access to and reasonably adequate quantities of wilderness areas for recreation, it is the middle ground of recreation opportunity that is lacking. Areas which provide for camping and picnicking and related pursuits in natural environment areas, but within easy reach of the urban areas, are needed. The limiting factors of wilderness use mean that there is a great deal of activity that cannot be undertaken in present circumstances. This ranges from swimming, bicycling and such to the use of motorized vehicles in either winter or summer. There are of course exceptions to this general condition.

The matter of primary concern in the Bitterroot Valley is the increasing development for residential use, with consequent limitation of access to the Bitterroot River. While the visitor is an important factor generally throughout the region, the Clarks Fork Valley region is particularly susceptible to impact from visitation generated in Idaho and Washington. Certain to create a temporary impact on recreational use will be the visitation associated with travel through the region enroute to and from the impending International Exposition taking place in Spokane in 1974.

GEOGRAPHIC, POPULATION AND HISTORIC CHARACTERISTICS

In a region of endless forest and mountains, and of numerous and varied attractions, it is difficult to determine which of the features most distinguish the region. So it is with this western portion of the state, where the visitor is beckoned in many directions. Like the spokes of a giant wheel, the five valleys radiate from the central hub, the city of Missoula, first drawing together the travelers from many directions, and in turn dispersing them to seek their recreation the mountains beyond.

Unlike other regions in Montana, this one is susceptible to the impact of a major metropolitan area in a nearby state. The city of Spokane only 100 miles distant from the border, and with a population of 180,000 exerts a significant influence upon the recreation resources of the western part of the region. While this added impact has not been measured, it is nevertheless a factor to be considered in planning for the western half of the state.

Planning Region 11 lies in the heart of the Northern Rocky Mountains and as a result is predominantly mountainous with only a few, relatively narrow intermountain valleys. Most ranges trend generally north and south within the region. The primary mountain areas are, from north to south the Cabinet Mountains, the Mission Range, the Jocko Range, the Garnet Range, the Bitterroot Mountains and the Sapphire Mountains. The origins of some mountain ranges in the region can be traced to folding and vertical uplifting and tilting of sedimentary layered blocks of earth; other mountains, especially those in the southern part of the region, formed as a result of granitic igneous intrusions. The Bitterroot Range in the southern part of the region is part of the huge (100 miles across) igneous Idaho batholith. There are few volcanic rocks in the region. Many of the higher elevations were subjected to mountain glaciation during the various ice ages. The major valleys of the region were at one time the ancient beds of glacial Lake Missoula which formed as a result of the Cordilleran ice sheet some 15,000 years ago. Major valleys are the Bitterroot Valley and the Clark Fork River Valley.

Most of the natural vegetation of Region 11 consists of confierous forest and alpine grassland with only a limited amount of undifferentiated stream bottom and intermountain valleys. Deciduous cottonwoods, willows, and alders, with grassland and meadows, make up the valley vegetation where not cultivated. On the drier sites at lower elevations in the hills, Ponderosa pine predominates as a species. Moving into the higher elevations, lodgepole pine is encountered in some areas, while the Montane forest is encountered elsewhere, particularly in the northern and northwestern portion of the region. Douglas fir, spruce and western larch predominate in the Montane forest. But in the northwestern part of the region, western hemlock, western red cedar, white spruce, grand fir and other species more closely associated with the Pacific Coast type forest are often found. At the higher elevations, some whitebark pine, alpine fir, limber pine and mountain hemlock are found with the alpine meadow.

Water resources in the region are abundant, especially rivers and streams. Lying completely west of the Continental Divide, all waters flow toward the Pacific Ocean. Major rivers and streams in Region 11 are the Clark Fork of the Columbia, the Flathead, the Bitterroot, the Blackfoot, the St. Regis, the Thompson, the Clearwater, and the headwaters of the Swan River. Major water bodies are the Noxon Reservoir, Seeley Lake and smaller lakes in the Clearwater and Swan drainages.

Climatic conditions in Region 11 are strictly influenced by the Pacific weather system. Generally, less extreme temperatures and moister conditions prevail. Snowfall is heavy in the higher elevations; rainfall is also greater in the region with a northern Rocky Mountain pattern of a spring maximum followed by a relatively dry July and August.

The population of Region 11 is 82,723 according to the official 1970 census. County totals are listed below.

REGION 11 POPULATION DISTRIBUTION

County		Persons
Mineral		2,958
Missoula		58,263
Ravalli		14,409
Sanders		7,093
	Region Total	82,723

Most of the population of Region 11 is concentrated in the Missoula area and the Bitterroot Valley. Smaller concentrations occur along the major river valleys. Major centers of population are Missoula (29,497), Hamilton (2,499) and Thompson Falls (1,356). Urban residents account for nearly 53% of the population, or 43,531 persons. About 1200 American Indians reside in Region 11 constituting a very small minority population. This region has been one of the few to have gained population since 1960. Missoula County gained 31%; Ravalli County gained 17%; Sanders gained 3%. Only in Mineral County was there a slight decrease in population, with a loss of 3% since 1960.

Region 11 is served by rail, air transportation with a major airport at Missoula, and highways with Interstate 90 running east and west through Missoula.

The region's economy is strongly oriented toward the forest industries, with the majority of coniferous timber harvested from nearby national forest land. Some agriculture is practiced, much of it being small cropping and truck farming because of the favorable climate, longer growing season and good soils. Some durable goods manufacturing takes place in Missoula and it provides for sizable employment. Missoula is also the wholesale-retail trade center for the area. Higher education is an important undertaking in the region, with one of the major institutions in the state being located at Missoula: The University of Montana.

Public land in Region 11 accounts for 62.4% of all land in the region. The following table indicates the percentage of public land in each county in Region 11.

PUBLIC LAND IN REGION 11*

County	Percentage	Square Miles
Mineral	86.3	1,050
Missoula	47.5	1,250
Ravalli	75.5	1,800
Sanders	54.8	1,542
	62.4	5,642

*Does not include local government land.

PUBLIC LAND ADMINISTRATION--REGION 11

Agency	Land (Acres)
Federal	
U. S. Forest Service	3,352,106
Bureau of Land Management	25,953
Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife	12,129
U. S. Army	7,000
Total	3,397,188
State	
Office of the State Forester	160,287
Montana Department of Fish and Game	29,310
Department of State Lands (not including state forests)	19,888
Total	209,485
Indian Reservation Lands	
Flathead Reservation	313,000

Local

Community Parks (Missoula, Hamilton) 280

Regional Points of Interest

Missoula

At this major regional center, at the hub of five great valleys, is found the University of Montana, the U. S. Forest Service Northern Region Headquarters, the U. S. Forest Service and Aerial Fire Depot, the Smoke Jumpers Center, skiing facilities and other attractions.

Moiese National Bison Range

Established in 1908 by President Teddy Roosevelt, this 18,540 acre range is home to some 400-500 bison as well as elk, pronghorn antelope, white-tail and mule deer and other wildlife.

Historic Sites

This region is rich in historical sites that pertain to exploration, early trade and settlement, Indian relationships, the military and mining.

The Lolo Trail begins near Missoula and crosses the Bitterroot Mountains into Idaho to the southwest for some 150 miles. It was the original Nez Perce buffalo trail that was followed by Lewis and Clark in their 1805 crossing of the Bitterroots to navigable waters which flowed to the Columbia River. Fort Fizzle, a military post of that era, is associated with the trail.

Traverlers Rest is the campsite where Lewis and Clark stopped to prepare for their westward crossing of the above mentioned Bitterroot Mountains on their trek to the Pacific coast in 1805. On its return the following year, the expedition stopped here again. It was at this time that the expedition split, Lewis taking a small party and heading northeast to the Marias River. Clark took the rest of the expedition and eventually proceeded down the Yellowstone River.

St. Mary's Mission was the first Catholic mission in the northwest and was founded in 1841 by Father DeSmet. After abandonment in 1850, the mission was reactivated in 1866 and the new church was built on the edge of Stevensville. The mission was the primary institution that maintained the friendship of the Flatheads, Jutenai and Pend d'Orielles after withdrawal of the early Canadian traders from the region.

Fort Owen was built in 1850 by John Owen near the site of the abandoned St. Mary's Mission. Having become a major trading post for the area, the post was threatened in the mid-1850's by Blackfeet Indians. It flourished again when gold was discovered in the surrounding areas. The site appears to be Montana's oldest continuously occupied settlement.

The Canyon Creek Laboratory of the U. S. Public Health Service was occupied by Dr. R. R. Parker and His staff in 1921. His staff of scientists and researchers engaged in the study and control of spotted fever and other tick-borne diseases. Vaccines were developed and other related studies were begun at this lab.

Below is a summary chart listing the major historic sites in Region 11.

HISTORIC SITES IN REGION 11

Historic Site	County	Signif. Date	Significance
Cedar Creek	Mineral	1869	Industry
Pardee-Keystone	Mineral	1870's	Industry
Savenac Tree Nursery	Mineral	1930's	Conservation
Silver City	Mineral	1870's	Industry
Council Grove	Missoula	1855	Historic-aboriginal
Forest Fire Lab	Missoula	1920's	Conservation
Fort Missoula	Missoula	1877	Military-Architect.
Hell Gate	Missoula	1860	Commerce
NR-NHL Lolo Trail	Missoula	1805	Historic-aboriginal
E. S. Paxson House	Missoula	1910	Art
Smoke Jumpers Center	Missoula	1940's	Conservation
NR-NHL Traveler's Rest	Missoula	1805	Political-Explor.
Alta Ranger Station	Ravalli	1899	Conservation
Cantonment Stevens	Ravalli	1853	Military
NR Canyon Creek Lab	Ravalli	1921	Education-Science
Daly's Bitterroot Farm	Ravalli	1880's	Industry
NR Fort Owen	Ravalli	1850	Historic-aboriginal
Medicine Tree	Ravalli	1800's	Historic-aboriginal
Ross's Hole	Ravalli	1805	Exploration
NR St. Mary's Mission, Church & Pharmacy	Ravalli	1841	Historic-aboriginal
Flathead, Jutenai, Pend d'Oreille Agency	Sanders	1872	Historic-aboriginal
Salish House I	Sanders	1809	Commerce
Salish House II	Sanders	1824	Commerce
Mountain House	Sanders	1800's	Commerce

NR = Site is listed on the National Register

NHL = Site is a National Historic Landmark

CHARACTERISTICS OF RECREATION USE

Leisure Time in Region 11

Outdoor recreation for Region 11 residents is the most significant leisure time activity engaged in. This was the only region in the state in which outdoor recreation accounted for a greater percentage of time than any other leisure time activity; outdoor recreation is clearly shown to be the most significant activity in the leisure time spectrum in Region 11. Indoor spectator activities, which in all other regions was the most popular way in which residents spent their time, ranked a close second in Region 11. Home-related activities and social activities were ranked third and fourth most popular by residents of Region 11. Outdoor recreation was engaged in most frequently in February, May and October, least frequently in August and September. The amount of leisure time available followed a similar pattern over the twelve-month period with the greatest amount available in March and the least amount in August and September.

The seasonal variation for leisure time activities was quite high, with many of the leisure time activities peaking during the winter and spring and falling off to some degree in the warmer summer months. While outdoor recreation generally exceeded other leisure time activities, on the average, throughout the year, only in June and November did it exceed other activities in popularity. Outdoor recreation popularity was relatively consistent throughout the year reaching peaks in February, May, June and October, dipping slightly in August and Spetember. Indoor spectator activities, which were the second most popular leisure time activities, never exceeded in any months other activities in popularity. Home-related activities reached a peak in the spring and exceeded others in popularity in April, May and July. Indoor play activities exceeded all others in popularity in October and December. Self-improvement activities had the greatest range reaching a high peak in March and dropping off to a low in August.

(For a more complete graphic account see Appendix .)

The Characteristics and Viewpoints of the Park User in Region 11

Resident to non-resident use of recreation facilities in Region 11 was on about a 60% to 40% ratio. This generally follows the pattern of the western part of the state where there is a relatively high non-resident useage of recreation facilities. Of the 60% resident use of facilities in Region 11, 24% came from Missoula County and 5% from Ravalli County within Region 11. Other counties outside of Region 11 also accounted for a high percentage of recreation users with Cascade County 14%, Silver Bow County 4%, Lewis and Clark County 2%, and other nearby counties accounting for the majority of use. Of those recreationists residing in Region 11, approximately 47% remain in Region 11 to recreate.

Nearly 33% go out of the region to recreate in Region 10 to the north, Flathead Lake and Glacier National Park probably being the big attractions. The balance of recreationists go to other regions to recreate. Region 12, 8 and 9 are also popular with recreationists residing in Region 11. The most prevalent party size encountered during the survey was that of 2 persons.

In Region 11, overnight and lengthy stays predominated over day use. Recreationists using facilities in Region 11 chose their recreation site most frequently because it was a place at which they could engage in a desired recreation activity. Geven nearly as often as a reason for choosing a recreation area in Region 11 was the natural beauty surrounding the area. Facilities conditions in recreation areas in this region were rated quite variably with some conditions being on a par, above, or below the state average. Environmental conditions generally rated on a par with or above the state average. The level of maintenance and convenience of facilities rated well above the state average.

Only 27% of all those respondents indicated a need for additional recreation facilities or at selected areas in Region 11. This would indicate a relatively high degree of satisfaction with the conditions of facilities and the wide range of activities available for recreationists.

Resting and relaxing was the most popular recreation activity engaged in by the user of facilities in this region. Camping, walking for pleasure, swimming and fishing were also popular as indicated by the frequency of participation by recreationists. The recreationist in this region stated as their number one preference, resting and relaxing followed by fishing, camping, swimming and boating. A high preference for water-oriented activities is indicated by the recreation user in this region.

Implications

1. The popularity of the region and the influx from out of state indicates that visitors will be tending to stay for longer periods. Day use facilities for Missoula area residents are an equally important consideration, however.

2. Agencies providing recreation facilities in this region should be aware of the fact that much use is by nonresidents, and other Montana residents from out of this region. The forests, mountains and lakes of the region, especially the Bitterroot Valley area are probably a primary drawing factor in drawing visitors from other regions and out-of-state.

3. The choice of a recreation area by a recreationist using facilities in Region 11 is influenced nearly equally by surrounding natural beauty of the area, and the fact that

specific recreation activities may be engaged in at these areas. Water-oriented activities are quite popular with the recreation user in the region.

4. Some improvement of the conditions of facilities at selected recreation areas in the region is indicated. This is also supported by a number of recreationists stating that there seems to be a need for additional activities or facilities at selected recreation areas in the region. Probably little can be done to improve the already high level of environmental factors.

5. The high popularity of resting and relaxing, camping, walking for pleasure, all relatively passive activities, would indicate greater emphasis be placed on providing for such passive type activities. In addition, the high level of preference indicated for such water-oriented activities as fishing, swimming and boating would also indicate increased emphasis placed on providing for these type activities.

The Montana Resident

Characteristics of the resident respondents can be found in Appendixes. These data include the respondents marital status, sex, age, household status, employment, vacation allowance, available time and general health.

Tables following indicate the frequency of recreating in various activities by those surveyed and is a measure of their popularity in Region 11.

Some correlation exists between the recreation activities residents engaged in and those indicated as most preferred. Driving for pleasure ranked first in both participation and preference; other activities shifted position just slightly between the two categories of preference and participation. Fishing, hunting and camping in particular made substantial gains in the stated preference of recreationists over the actual participation in those activities. As a preference, such activities as playing outdoor games, bicycling, picnicking and hiking declined substantially from the position occupied in the participation category.

Fishing, the most popular water-oriented activity, was engaged in to the highest degree during the summer and early fall in Planning Region 11. Its popularity decreased somewhat in November and again in the late winter - early spring period. Swimming reached a peak in July and motor boating reached a peak in August but neither of these two activities, nor any other water-oriented activity, exceeded fishing at any time throughout the year. In winter activities, this is one of the few regions in the state where snowskiing actually exceeded snowmobiling for a portion of the colder winter months. Snowskiing reached its peak in February and actually was more popular through January, February, March and April losing somewhat in popularity to snowmobiling and sledding in November and December.

For those activities generally concentrated in one area, there was a wide range of values implying a wide range of popularity throughout the year. Sightseeing was generally the most popular activity in its category throughout the year, peaking in March, September and December and dropping off in the summer months. At this time picnicking exceeded sightseeing in popularity. Walking for pleasure was the most popular activity of its kind for Region 11, reaching a peak in the colder months and dropping off in the summer months. Only in the fall time was it exceeded or equalled by hunting. Driving for pleasure did not exceed other activities of a similar nature to as great a degree as in other planning regions. Other activities in this category such as bicycling, back-country touring, and motor bike riding all remained relatively constant in opularity throughout the year.

(For a detailed graphic account see Appendixes.)

Primitive areas such as the Cabinet Mountains Wilderness Area, the Mission Mountains Primitive Area and the Anaconda-Pintlar Wilderness Area received a higher rating of preference from residents of Region 11 than from residents in any other region in the state. This points out the significance of wilderness and primitive areas to residents of this region as well as other regions. It was exceeded, however, in general popularity by natural undeveloped environment areas where there is a minimum of development, and also by general outdoor recreation areas, such as parks and forest campgrounds, where there are developed facilities. Outstanding natural areas such as Glacier National Park, and historic and cultural sites also rated quite high by residents of Region 11.

Implications

1. Driving for pleasure is indicated as being the most popular activity in Region 11. Associated sightseeing is also rated high in this Region as in many other regions. Although new roads to accommodate driving for pleasure are certainly not necessary, facilities to enhance driving that is done for recreation and sightseeing on existing roads should be available for residents of this region. The potential is high for these activities especially in the southern part of the region, which includes the Bitterroot Valley area.

2. Fishing because of its popularity in preference and participation should be accorded the attention it deserves, and a program to assure continued and increased access to public fishing waters should be considered.

3. Walking for pleasure and picnicking are also important activities in this region. At various points of interest in the region, and within towns, facilities to accommodate such activities should be provided. Other activities which should receive increased attention in the region are hunting, camping, bicycling and hiking. All these activities show some increase in stated preference over actual participation.

4. Children's activities which should receive greater attention in the future are bicycling, playing outdoor games and fishing.

5. Because of the high popularity of water-oriented recreation, in particular by the actual recreation user, increased emphasis should be given to providing for public access to public water bodies. In particular, fishing access deserves the greater attention.

6. Winter activities are important to residents of this region, in particular snowskiing. The area is already served by a few ski areas such as Marshall Mountain and the Missoula Snowbowl both near Missoula, Lookout Pass and Lost Trail south of Hamilton.

7. Residents of Region 11 prefer natural undeveloped environment areas first and foremost, but the desire of many for primitive and wilderness recreation is evident also. Access to more remote areas of the national forest should be assured and increased to enable recreationists to enjoy the more natural environment type areas and the more primitive areas which they desire. Facilities should continue to be provided at key locations where specific popular activities may be engaged in. Again water and scenery are desirable factors to be considered in future selection of sites in this region.

Problems and Potentials for Recreation in Region 11

There is a relatively high potential for driving for pleasure in Region 11 especially in the more mountainous areas and the Bitterroot Valley to the south. Region 11 is fairly scenic in many areas and this enhances driving for pleasure and sightseeing. The availability of many public roads on forest service land is also an asset to this recreation activity.

Campgrounds in the region are numerous, and camping is a major activity for many recreationists in the area and those coming into the area from out-of-state and out of the region. There is a problem in that some campgrounds fill to capacity, while others remain only half full or nearly empty. Distribution, not capacity, seems to be a problem in this area. For instance, Seeley Lake campgrounds are often full while Rock Creek campgrounds remains about 30% capacity. This is probably due to the attraction of lakes for many recreationists. Perhaps campgrounds should be classified or stratified into such categories as water-oriented, bedroom activity type and environment type; this would give recreationists a better opportunity to choose areas in which they are interested in. The role of responsibility also enters the picture, and the question becomes: who is responsible for the formal developed campgrounds versus the undeveloped roadless sites in the back woods area? Figures show that some 75% of the camping use does take place at informal undeveloped areas. The Bureau of Land Management has no developed sites in this region, but recreationists are camping in many areas where there are no facilities: they congregate near springs, creeks and near trail roads even though there are no developed facilities.

There is a need for close coordination of private and public campground development. Perhaps the difference between destination and overnight camping should be distinguished. The U.S. Forest Service is reviewing its role in providing services closely adjoining major highways. Three such areas, namely Cabin City, Quartz Flat and Slow Way Campgrounds near Superior are receiving very heavy usage, however.

As far as campground development is concerned, the Montana Department of Fish and Game has indicated development plans for Beavertail Hill and Frenchtown Ponds in the region. At Beavertail Hill 15 camp units, 20 day use sites plus access to the river for river floating will be developed; at Frenchtown Pond 25 camp units and 20 picnic units will be installed. No new developments for either the Lolo or the Bitterroot Forest are planned at this time. Restoration and preservation work at Garnet by the Bureau of Land Management is presently being undertaken; day use facilities undoubtedly will be part of this development. Within the urban area, the city of Missoula does not presently have overnight camping but does have tentative plans to develop facilities for this activity.

Much picnicking is often done outside of designated areas. Different types of picnicking activity might be classified such as group picnicking, family picnicking and other types of picnicking. Reservations for group picnics are heavy in this region, and group picnics do have different requirements than other types of picnicking. Often the day users or picnickers carry their own equipment such as volleyballs, horseshoes, etc. Picnicking is often associated with other activities. Group picnic reservations are frequently made a year in advance for the more popular picnic areas in the Missoula area; these picnics are more of a social event, which lends a different connotation than that of the family picnic. The Missoula area seems to be short of areas for group picnicking; Patty Canyon is used presently for this type of activity. The picnicking and other use at the Blue Mountain area in the region is also relatively heavy. On the Blackfoot River, however, there were numerous picnic areas vacant on the Labor Day weekend; this occurs on other holidays also. This may be attributed to the reluctance of recreationists to venture out to such an area on what would be expected as a heavily used site on a holiday.

River floating, a popular activity in the area, has potential on many of the rivers including the Blackfoot and the Bitterroot. The opportunity for river floating should be made known to the public. Knowledge of the Blackfoot River as an alternative recreation area might help decrease the recreational demand in the Flathead Area. One problem in river floating revolved around Montana water law; there must be clarification on conflicts over a survey meander stream that pertains to rights of adjacent owners relative to public use of the stream.

Activities that require trails such as biking, horseback riding and hiking are popular in the region. The Forest Service is studying the trails as an integral part of a transport system for management on Forest Service land. This includes both highways and the natural system. The 230 mile round trip through the Swan River Valley is popular for bicycling or hiking, but somewhat dangerous because of the narrowness of the road and traffic. There really are no adequate facilities or provisions for bicycling or motorbike riding. Bicycling trails need paving, easy grades and periodic shelters to enhance this activity.

Motorbikes are often cited as a problem and both the noise and detrimental effect to the environment should be considered in planning for these vehicles. Public lands often have a number of meadows which are very wet and this has been a problem with motorcycles and bikes in the area. If their use damages the resource, there will undoubtedly be restrictions by public agencies on public lands. West slope forests management plans may allow the use of major trails, and do not plan to block out major areas as might be done on forests east of the divide, which have a different problem when it comes to restriction of motorbikes and other off-road vehicles. There are some efforts presently for Bitterroot River Valley development that would include such things as bike trails and river frontage acquisition to enhance both biking and other recreation activities.

The Forest Service is presently developing an area plan for the chain of lakes in the Seeley Lake area. The Seeley Lake campground has been studied intensively for four years. There needs to be further evaluation to determine recreation impact and desire in the area.

Winter sports are very popular in Region 11 and most of the mountainous regions receive a substantial winter snowfall. Snowskiing facilities and resorts are becoming quite popular, and are used to a high degree as well as snowmobile trails located in the adjacent mountains. Major snowskiing facilities are located at Corona Lake 18 miles north of Plains; Lookout Pass about 100 miles west of Missoula; Marshall Mountains in the Missoula vicinity; the Missoula Snowbowl 14 miles north of Missoula; and Lost Trail about 45 miles south of Hamilton. This is evidence of the good opportunity and popularity of snowskiing in Region 11.

Inventory of Facilities

Federal and State Recreation Facilities

In Region 11, the major public agencies which provide recreation facilities on land for public use are the U.S. Forest Service, and the Montana Department of Fish and Game. The Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife also provides recreation opportunity to a lesser degree. Major areas with selected facilities are summarized below:

FEDERAL AND STATE RECREATION AREAS - REGION 11

Federal	Picnic Units	Camping Units	Swimming	Fishing	Boat Ramp
U. S. Forest Service (as of March 1, 1974)					
Bitterroot N.F.					
Alta	0	15	0	0	0
Bear Creek Pass	0	7	0	0	0
Black Bear	6	10	0	0	0
Blodgget Canyon Picnic Ground	5	0	0	0	0
Boulder Creek	1	11	0	0	0
Charles Waters	4	12	0	0	0
Como Bay	1	0	X	0	0
Crazy Creek	0	14	0	0	0
Fales Flat Group Camp	0	15	0	0	0
Gold Creek	1	3	0	0	0
Indian Trees	0	18	0	0	0
Jennings Camp	0	4	0	0	0

Federal	Picnic Units	Camping Units	Swimming	Fishing	Boat Ramp
Bitterroot N.F. (continued)					
Lake Como	0	10	0	0	0
Larry Creek Group Camp	0	30	0	0	0
Little Boulder Bay	0	0	0	0	X
Martin Creek	0	7	0	0	0
North Lake Como	0	0	0	0	X
Rombo	0	14	0	0	0
Schumaker	0	5	0	0	X
Slate Creek	4	9	0	0	0
Slate Creek Bay	0	0	0	0	X
Spring Gulch	0	10	0	0	0
Warm Springs	2	13	0	0	0
Flathead N.F.					
Holland Creek	0	2	0	X	0
Holland Lake	0	41	X	X	X
Lindborgh Lake	0	4	X	X	X
Owl Creek	0	6	0	0	0
Lolo N.F.					
Big Larch	21	50	X	X	X
Cabin City	0	12	0	X	0
Clearwater Crossing	0	2	0	X	0
Grand Menard	3	0	0	0	0
Lake Alva	0	2	0	X	0
Lake Inez	0	2	0	X	X
Lee Creek	0	22	0	X	0
Lewis & Clark	6	17	0	X	0

Federal	Picnic Units	Camping Units	Swimming	Fishing	Boat Ramp
Lolo N.F.					
Pardee	0	2	0	0	0
Patty Canyon Picnic Area	91	0	0	0	0
Quartz Flat	0	52	0	X	0
River Point	8	26	X	X	0
Seeley Lake	9	32	X	X	X
Sloway	0	28	0	X	0
Trout Creek	7	12	0	X	0
Total	169	519	6	15	9
Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife					
Moise National Bison Range	15	0	0	X	0
Ravalli National Wildlife Refuge	10	0	0	X	0
Total	25	0	0	2	0
State					
Montana Fish and Game Department					
Beavertail Hill SRA	0	0	0	0	0
Big Pine FAS	3	7	0	X	0
Chief Looking Glass FAS	13	10	0	X	X
Clearwater Crossing FAS	3	3	0	X	0
Florence Bridge FAS	2	0	0	X	X
Forks FAS	4	4	0	X	0
Fort Owen SM	0	0	0	0	0
Frenchtown Pond FAS	0	0	0	X	0

State	Picnic Units	Camping Units	Swimming	Fishing	Boat Ramp
Montana Fish and Game Department (continued)					
Harper Lake FAS	3	8	0	X	0
Ninemile Prairie FAS	0	4	0	X	0
Noxon Rapids FAS	0	0	0	X	X
Painted Rocks SRA	9	15	X	X	X
Thompson Falls SRA	12	30	0	X	X
Turah FAS	0	20	0	X	X
Total	49	101	1	12	6
Total Selected Facilities Region 11	243	620	7	29	15

MAJOR RECREATION RESOURCES

LOLO NATIONAL FOREST
Information courtesy of Lolo Forest

Phase I Multiple Use Plan

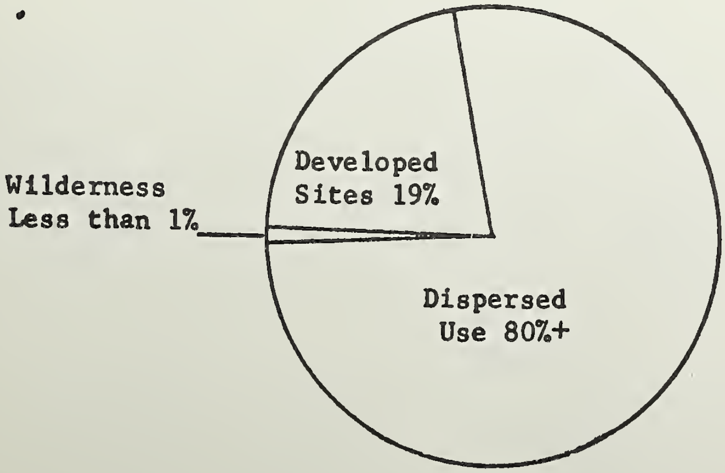
Overview

The Lolo National Forest is located in western Montana. The net acreage of the Forest is 2,089,471 acres. It lies primarily in a five-county area surrounding Missoula, Montana. The population in this five-county area is 77,711 with 75% in Missoula County. This area of Montana is noted for its recreation opportunities and wood product industries. Missoula is the home of the University of Montana and thus another group of Forest users. The Forest, in providing water, fish and wildlife habitat, wood products, recreation opportunities and livestock range, plays an important role in the industry, commerce and recreation of the area.

The Lolo National Forest area is rich in historical interest. Lewis and Clark traveled through the area, remnants of Indian and early military activities can be found in the Nez Perce Trail, Fort Fizzle and the Old Mullan Road. The names of many of the communities can be traced to Indian tribes and the early fur trade and missionary activity. Much of the early development can be traced to early mining ventures. The history of the area is one of the values that contributes to the Forest's recreation opportunities.

RECREATION

Present annual recreation use is estimated at 1,072,800 visitor-days. During the period of 1969 to 1971, the average annual increase in recreation use was 4.5 percent. General distribution of use is as follows:



The biggest increases in use are traveling for pleasure, use of rivers and streams, other dispersed area forms of recreation, and snowmobiling. Campground use leveled off because no new units have been built in three years and popular campgrounds are full with no construction to handle increased demand. Statistically, the Forest has difficulty with trends in use. For example, during a wet summer the camping and boating use declines, as does travel for pleasure. Skiing use on the Forest does not reflect the national trend because the three ski areas reflect local use and a lack of national or regional interest. The lack of transportation and facilities at the ski areas are primary reasons for local use. Use levels at these areas are dependent on annual snow conditions. Cross-country skiing interest is increasing. Overall, recreation use data and projections indicate that recreation demand will continue to increase.

Forms of Recreation Use

In considering recreation opportunities, the Forest has a wide range of opportunities. The forms of recreation considered in recreation planning include developed sites, dispersed use, backcountry, and recreation related to wilderness. Developed sites include primarily public campgrounds or commercial sites such as a ski area. Dispersed use basically refers to use in the roaded portion of the Forest where developed campgrounds are generally not available. Activity is road oriented interspersed with activity in both the developed and undeveloped portions of the Forest. Excellent recreation opportunities exist throughout the Forest for dispersed use, including such activities as hunting, driving for pleasure, berry picking and snowmobiling. Backcountry use is the form of use which occurs in the larger unroaded areas. Some resource activity or development may occur in conjunction with backcountry use. As an example, a small stand of timber might be removed, but the roads would be low standard and closed following use. Backcountry use areas are not formally classified areas. The controls for use of this type of area are established in the Forest Multiple Use Plan and will be more specifically established in the management guidance prepared for each multiple use planning unit. Backcountry use is considered as a blending of general resource management with roadless area management with emphasis on maintaining the area as generally unroaded. The wilderness resource is considered as separate and distinct from the recreation resource. Description and management of the wilderness resource is covered most completely in the Coordinating Requirements for the Special Zone. Recreation use does occur in classified Wildernesses and is an important form of use.

WILDLIFE RESOURCE

The entire Forest provides habitat for wildlife, including nondomesticated mammals, birds, reptiles, and amphibians. It is estimated that the Forest contains habitat for at least 60 mammal, 100 bird, and undetermined reptile and amphibian species.

Forest habitat includes moist bottomland, grassland with scattered trees, coniferous forest, and subalpine areas. Within each broad habitat area, a number of more specific habitat types are present, each having its own distinct characteristics. Habitat modification is continuous; some subtle as plant succession, others more obvious as exemplified by timber harvest and activity of earth-moving machinery. Associated with this habitat modification is a continuous change or adjustment in the total Forest environment.

Users

Forest wildlife is used by consumers such as hunters and nonconsumers such as viewers, both human and nonhuman. The amount of use by each group is difficult to define, but it is estimated the nonconsumer outnumbers the consumer several fold. Both the consumer and nonconsumer are important. The difficult question is the balance of wildlife necessary for the well-being of the ecosystem.

People's use of wildlife is increasing on the Forest and will continue to grow. The wildlife habitat capacity or ability to satisfy the current-day human consumer, such as the hunter, is more restricted than that of the nonconsumer, such as the sightseer. The consumer needs will continue to be met for the present if both habitat manipulation and hunter regulations are programmed concurrently. Within the Forest boundary it is estimated that 8,500 deer hunters take 4,000 deer and 8,700 elk hunters harvest 1,400 elk annually. Grouse, furbearers, cougars, occasional grizzly bear, and small fauna provide additional forms of consumption on the Forest.

Habitat Resource

Every acre of the Forest is considered wildlife habitat. How many of these acres are used by the different species is unknown. Current inventory data indicates there are 230,000 acres of key deer and elk winter range, at least three geographic areas with suitable habitat for bighorn sheep, a minimum of four geographic areas of mountain goat habitat, a minimum of 14 nesting sites for eagle and osprey, and approximately 260,000 acres of presently occupied grizzly bear habitat. Although the major portion of key big game winter range has been mapped, only a small portion has been inventoried and analyzed at a level necessary to meet present management needs. Opportunities exist to improve or increase certain wildlife ranges.

FISHERY RESOURCE

A wide range of aquatic habitat types are found within the Forest. The Forest has 254 fishable streams which comprises over 700 miles of stream habitat. The Forest has surveyed the streams and classified the habitat of approximately 70 percent of this stream mileage. The more obvious results of these surveys characterize the stream habitat of the Forest as a ren-riffle environment with an abundance of spawning gravels; however, the streams generally lack high-quality pools and overhead cover. The Rock Creek Fishery Habitat and Water Quality Study involves more detailed study of fishery habitat conditions. Of the streams, Rock Creek (Class I - blue ribbon stream) is rated as having national and Statewide significance and the Thompson and Blackfoot Rivers (Class II) are rated as having Statewide significance. These rivers have their confluence with the Clark Fork River (Class III), a large river which will receive a great deal more sport fishery use as pollution from domestic and industrial discharge is brought under control. Twenty-two other streams are classified for their Statewide and/or local significance. These classifications were assigned by the Stream Classification Committee including representatives from Montana State University, Montana Fish and Game Department and U.S. Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife.

The Forest has 150 lakes, many of which are barren and not capable of sustaining fish; others sustain excellent fish populations. Seeley Lake, 1,100 acres, is the largest. There are numerous lakes ranging in size from 5 to 15 acres. Preliminary lake surveys have been conducted on approximately 80 percent of these lakes by the Montana Department of Fish and Game. Lakes at higher elevations found suitable for fish have been stocked with rainbow, eastern brook, or cutthroat trout. Lakes in the Seeley Lake area (Clearwater Chain of Lakes) have been stocked with large mouthed black bass, kokanee salmon, yellow perch, pumpkinseed and trout.

Users

The sport fishery resource is being utilized annually by an everincreasing number of anglers. Projected utilization of this resource on the Forest suggests substantial increases as the number of local and out-of-state anglers increases and private lands become less accessible for public use. Utilization of the fishery resource is affected by both harvest rates and access. Angler use expressed as fisherman-days was reported by the Montana Department of Fish and Game for the period May through September 1968. Their estimates indicate fisherman-day use on Rock Creek, 24,671; Thompson River, 7,695; St. Regis River, 4,338; Seeley Lake, 6,785; and Lake Inez, 2,520. Estimates on the individual smaller streams and lakes ranged from less than 100 to several thousand fisherman-days. Increased pressures on the fishery resource require that the aquatic habitat of both lakes and streams within the Forest be maintained at present levels and developed where feasible.

BITTERROOT NATIONAL FOREST
Information courtesy of Forest Service

Fish and Wildlife

With few exceptions, every kind of big game that lives in the mountains of North America can be found in these western Montana mountains. Moose, elk, mule and white tailed deer, bighorn sheep, mountain goat and black bear make this a favorite gathering place for the hunter and observers of wildlife. Blue Grouse is the most common upland game bird, while ruffed and spruce grouse are also present in significant numbers. Pheasants are found in the lower cultivated valleys.

The lakes and streams of the Bitterroot Valley and the mountains adjoining offer a wealth of fishing. The Bitterroot River and its main tributaries, the West Fork and the East Fork, are noted for several species of trout. In the high mountain lakes and the high reaches of the streams, most of the fish are cutthroat trout. The lesser streams abound in brook trout. The lakes and streams in the lower elevations abound in rainbow trount, while cutthroat are also found here. In the lower Bitterroot, the Dolly Varden and brown trout predominate.

Streams abound in the lower ranges and foothills of the valley, with more than 20 significant creeks or streams found on the west portion. On the east side of the valley there are also a large number, with perhaps then of them being of major interest. The streams on both sides of the valley have smaller tributaries.

The higher elevations of the mountains contain numerous lakes with a total of approximately 75 of some significance, with Lake Como being the largest. Of this total approximately 40 are relatively small. On the east flank of the valley there are roughly 15 lakes of some size, with a third of these found in the Anaconda Pintlar Wilderness area.

General Recreation

Developed sites on the forest total approximately 28, with two fishing access sites, Chief Looking Glass and Florence Bridge, situated on the Bitterroot River. Fort Owen State Monument, southeasterly of Stevensville, is at present undeveloped.

The most prominent of the developed sites on the forest is the Lake Como campground. Three mile long Lake Como is formed by a dam on Rock Creek and the entire shoreline is on national forest lands.

Painted Rocks Lake, formed by a dam on the West Fork of the Bitterroot River, is another popular area. The lake, also approximately 3 miles long, is somewhat smaller than Lake Como, with approximately 3/4 of its shoreline on the forest land.

A development by the Montana Department of Fish and Game on this lake provides camping and fishing, and a development by the Forest Service, Slate Creek Campground, provides camping and picnicking and boat access.

The numerous lakes and streams provide interesting destination points for the hiker or walker. Most of the streams of any size have a partially developed trail associated with them. Much of the terrain in the Bitterroots is too rugged for cross country hiking and the primary routes are therefore the smaller drainages. These offer a wealth of exploratory opportunity and they are generally easily accessible from the highway.

THE SELWAY-BITTERROOT WILDERNESS

The Selway-Bitterroot wilderness dramatized the already outstanding features of the mountains and forest in this region. The snow-capped peaks remain into summer, the pristine lakes and streams, the undisturbed woodlands, wildlife in its ancient setting, all combine to give the visitor the experience of complete detachment from the rest of the world. The opportunity to see the world the way it has been from time immemorial is one of the most rewarding experiences the outdoorsman can have. This largest of the wilderness areas in the United States, lying next door to the residents of the region caps the wide range of recreation available.

The wilderness is relatively accessible from the Montana side. A good forest road leads up to the boundary from a point between Hamilton and Darby adjoining Rock Creek most of the way. Bear Creek Saddle Forest Campground is located there, providing an excellent base from which to explore the wilderness.

MISSOULA COUNTY SEGMENT OF LOLO AND FLATHEAD NATIONAL FORESTS

The north-northeast segment of Missoula County is the location of a number of water-oriented recreational opportunities and attractions. The Swan River is situated in the northern portion and the Clearwater River in the southern portion.

The area also contains a number of lakes, some of which are large enough in size to merit development.

On the Flathead Forest two major lakes are:

Holland Lake - provides two developed campgrounds, boat access, and picnic areas. The lakeshore is entirely on U.S. Forest Lands. This attractive area is easily accessible by improved forest roads.

Lindbergh Lake - provides one developed camping and picnic area. Of the 8 mile shoreline, approximately 2½ miles are on U.S. Forest Lands.

On the Lolo Forest the larger lakes are:

Rainy Lake - provides no developed areas, however, the shoreline is entirely on U.S. Forest Lands. It is easily accessible from the Highway 209.

Lake Alva - provides one developed area and the entire shoreline is on Forest Land.

Marshall Lake - is surrounded by private lands. The Lolo forest adjoins closely the private lands, however, there is a boat access on the lake.

Lake Inez - provides one developed area. Approximately half of its shoreline is on U.S. Forest Land.

Seeley Lake - provides three developments, including the well known Big Larch Campground, a large development providing lots of camping, picnicking and excellent boat launch facilities. Approximately 85% of the lakeshore is on U.S. Forest Lands. The Big Larch Campground is closely adjacent to the Highway 209 and is popular and well used.

Placid Lake - provides a private boat access facility, and the entire shoreline is privately owned. Numerous summer homes and cabins surround this lake.

Salmon Lake - provides no developed public campgrounds and is adjoined entirely by private lands.

South of Seeley Lake are several public fishing access sites owned and administered by the Department of Fish and Game as follows:

Harpers Lake site on the Clearwater River,
Clearwater Crossing also on the Clearwater River,
Nine Mile Prairie on the Blackfoot River.

In addition to the above referenced lakes there are numerous small mountain lakes, often found in clusters, which are valuable for recreation though often remote and not easily accessible.

KANIKSU NATIONAL FOREST

A small portion of the forest is located in the extreme western end of Sanders County. The forest lies on both sides of the Clark Fork River for a distance of 30 miles. Highway 200 traverses the river valley also. The western portion is found on the Bitterroot Range and the eastern portion of the Cabinet Mountains.

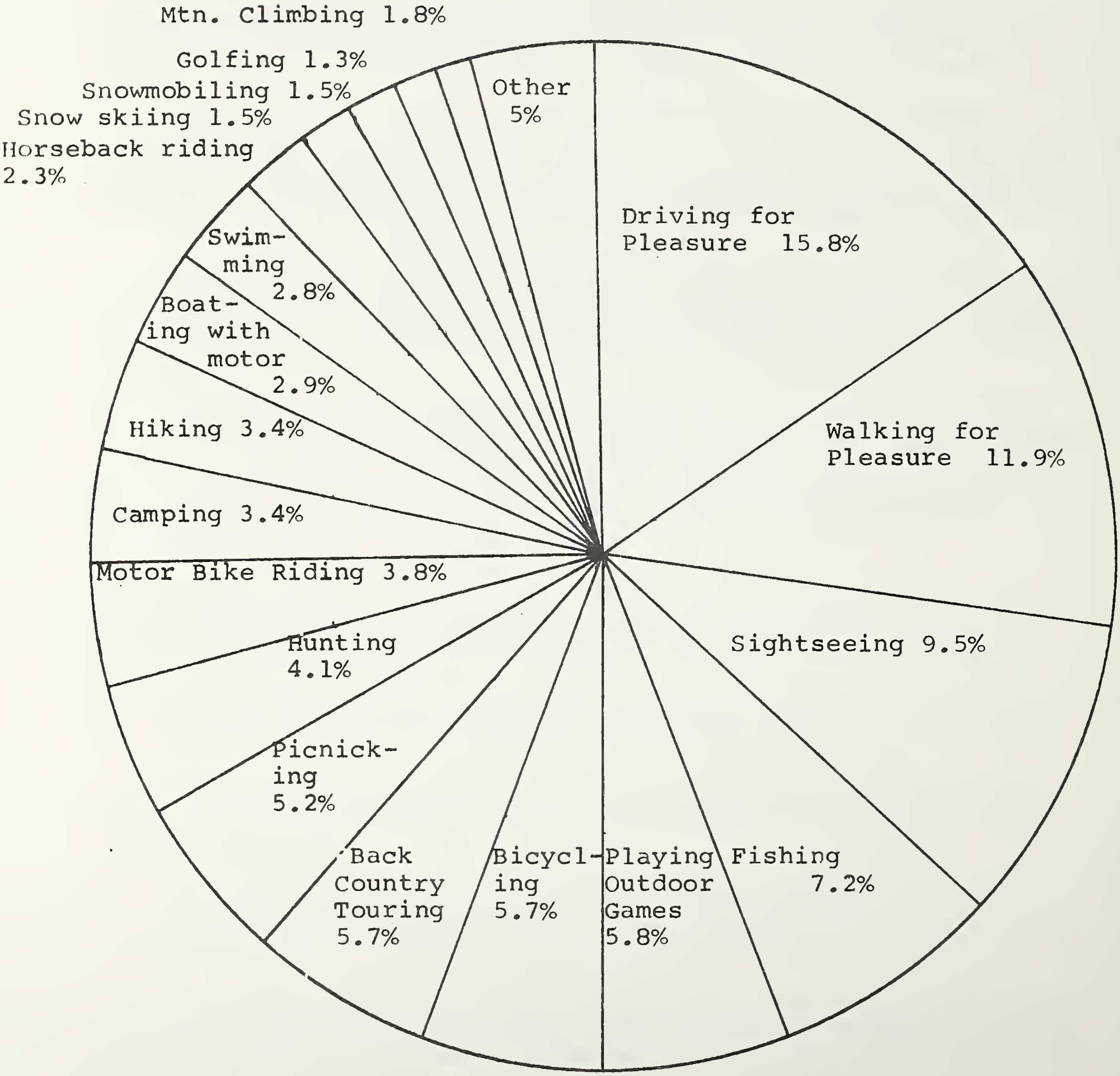
Adjacent to the Montana-Idaho border is the remainder of the Kaniksu with Lake Pend O'rielle located only 15 miles from the Montana line. Much of the use of the Montana area is associated with the lake.

There are several developed campgrounds on the Clark Fork and three boat access sites. The Cabinet Gorge Dam and the Noxon Rapids Dam provide fairly large impoundments which in turn provide considerable boating opportunity.

The forest contains roughly one half of the Cabinet Mountains Wilderness Area, including noted Wanless Lake. Trails lead into the area at several points, available to both hiker and horseback rider.

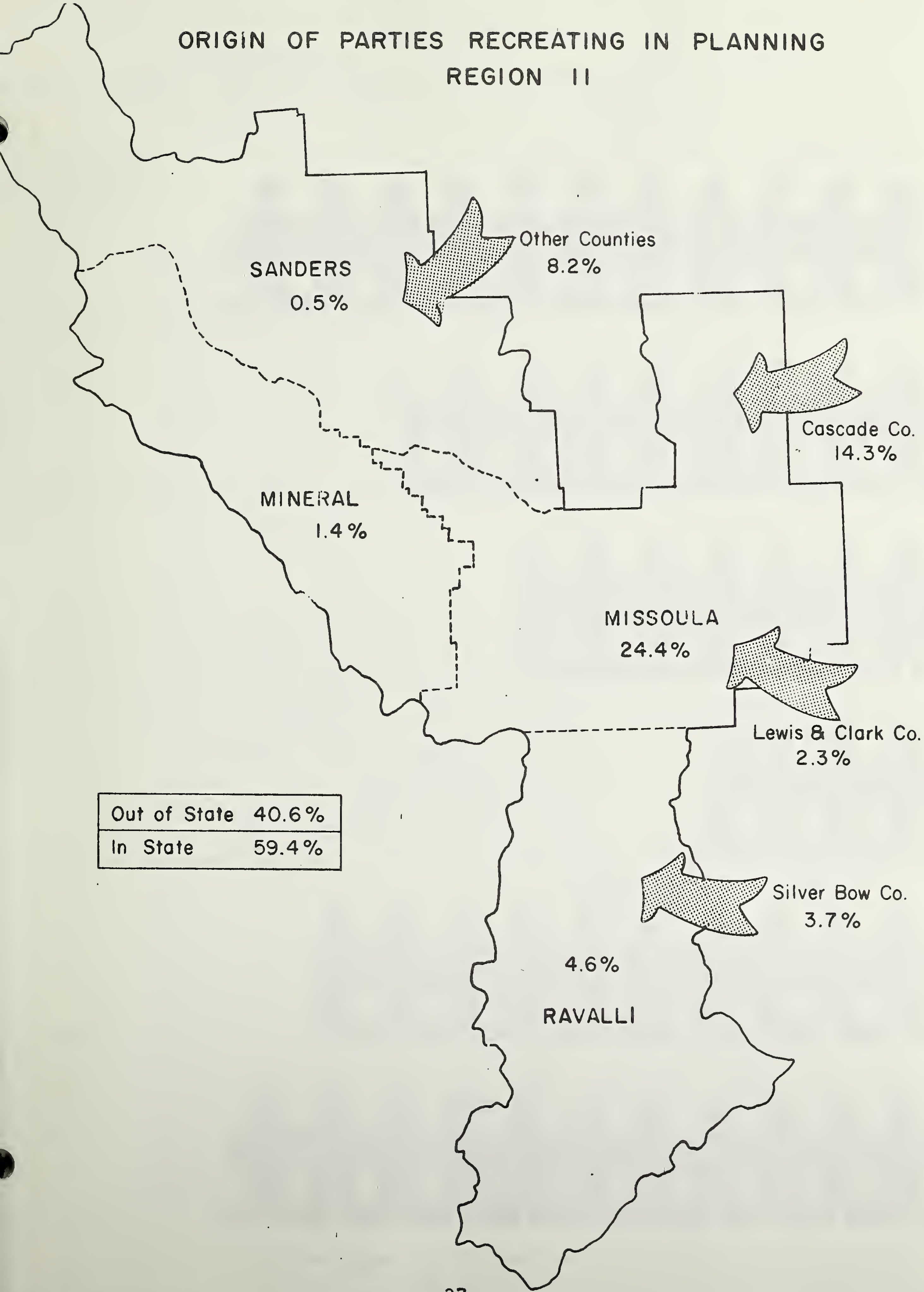
PLANNING REGION 11

Frequency of Participation in Selected Outdoor Recreation Activities by Montana Residents - Yearly Average



The above percentages represent an activity's portion of all recreation time.

ORIGIN OF PARTIES RECREATING IN PLANNING REGION II

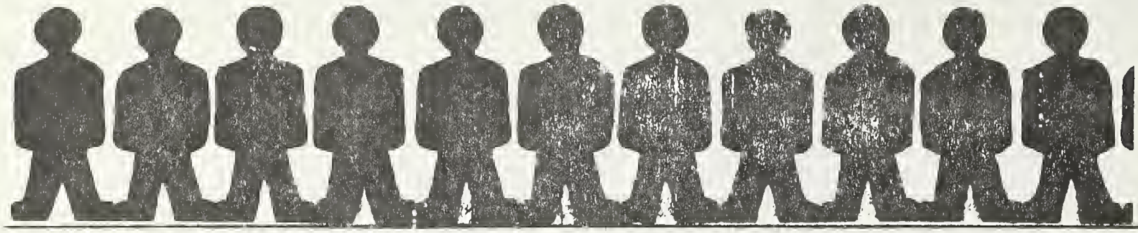

Other Counties
8.2%
SANDERS
0.5%
Cascade Co.
14.3%
MINERAL
1.4%
MISSOULA
24.4%
Lewis & Clark Co.
2.3%
Out of State 40.6%
In State 59.4%
Silver Bow Co.
3.7%
4.6%
RAVALLI

PLANNING REGION 11

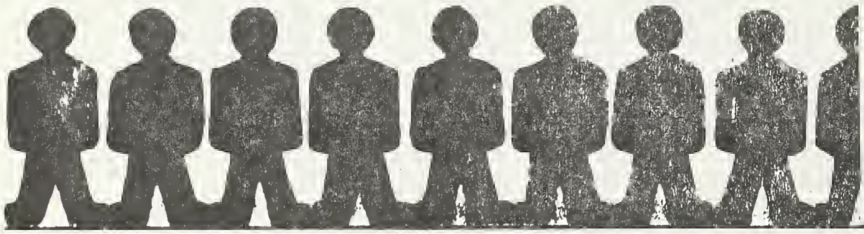
Leisure Time Activities Engaged in by Montana Residents - Yearly Average

Each man equals 5 responses

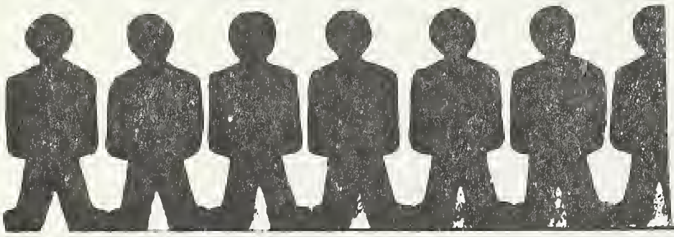
Indoor spectator activities (55.6)



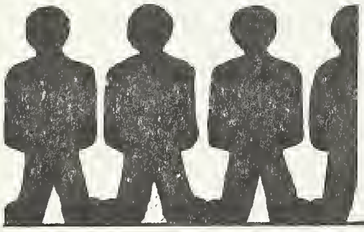
Social activities (42.6)



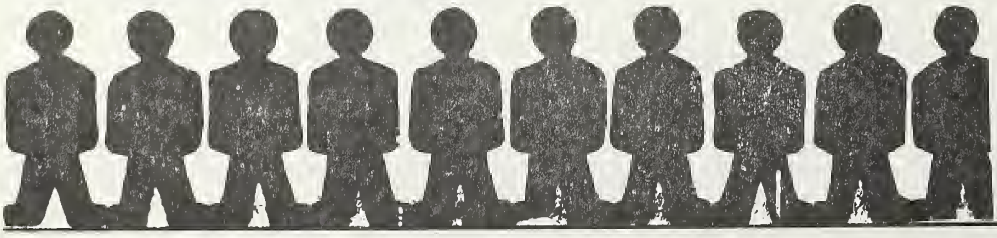
Indoor play activities (32.9)



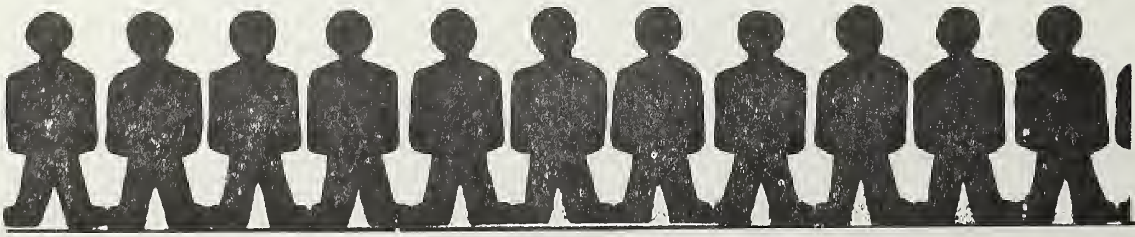
Self improvement activities (18.1)



Home related activities (49.7)



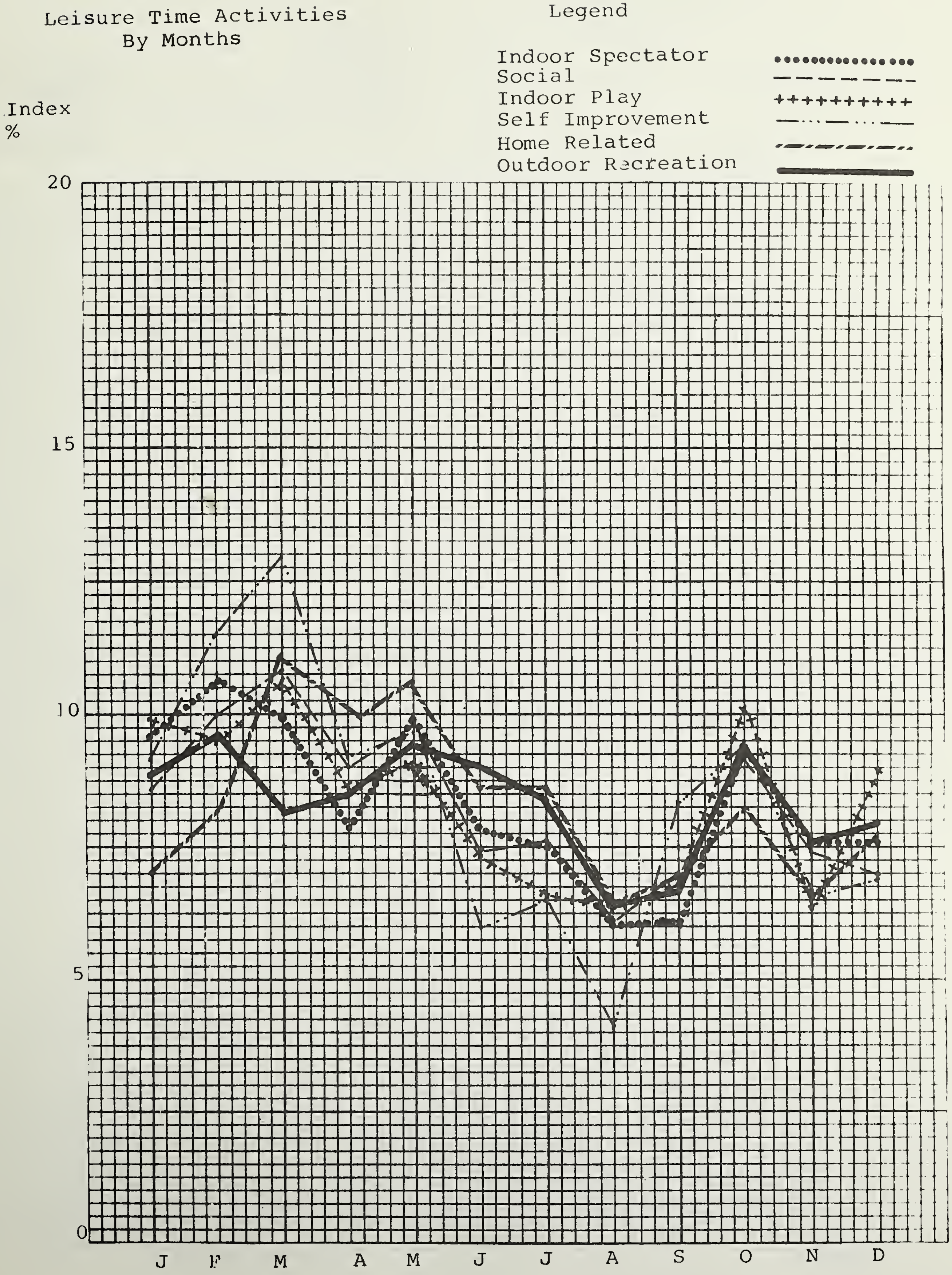
Outdoor recreation (55.8)



Above numbers indicate the average monthly responses from surveyed residents in the planning region.

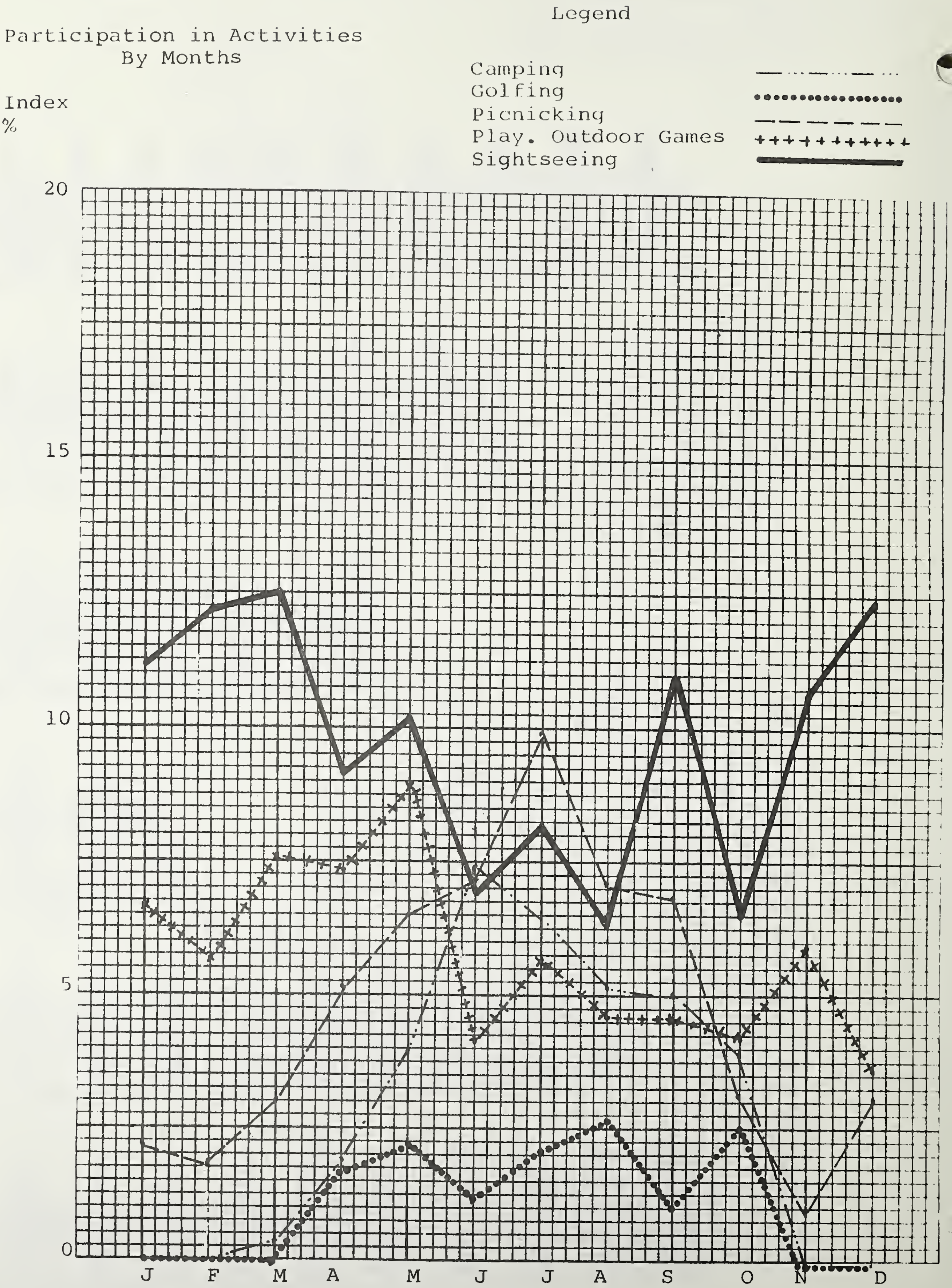
PLANNING REGION 11

Leisure Time Activities
By Months



PLANNING REGION 11

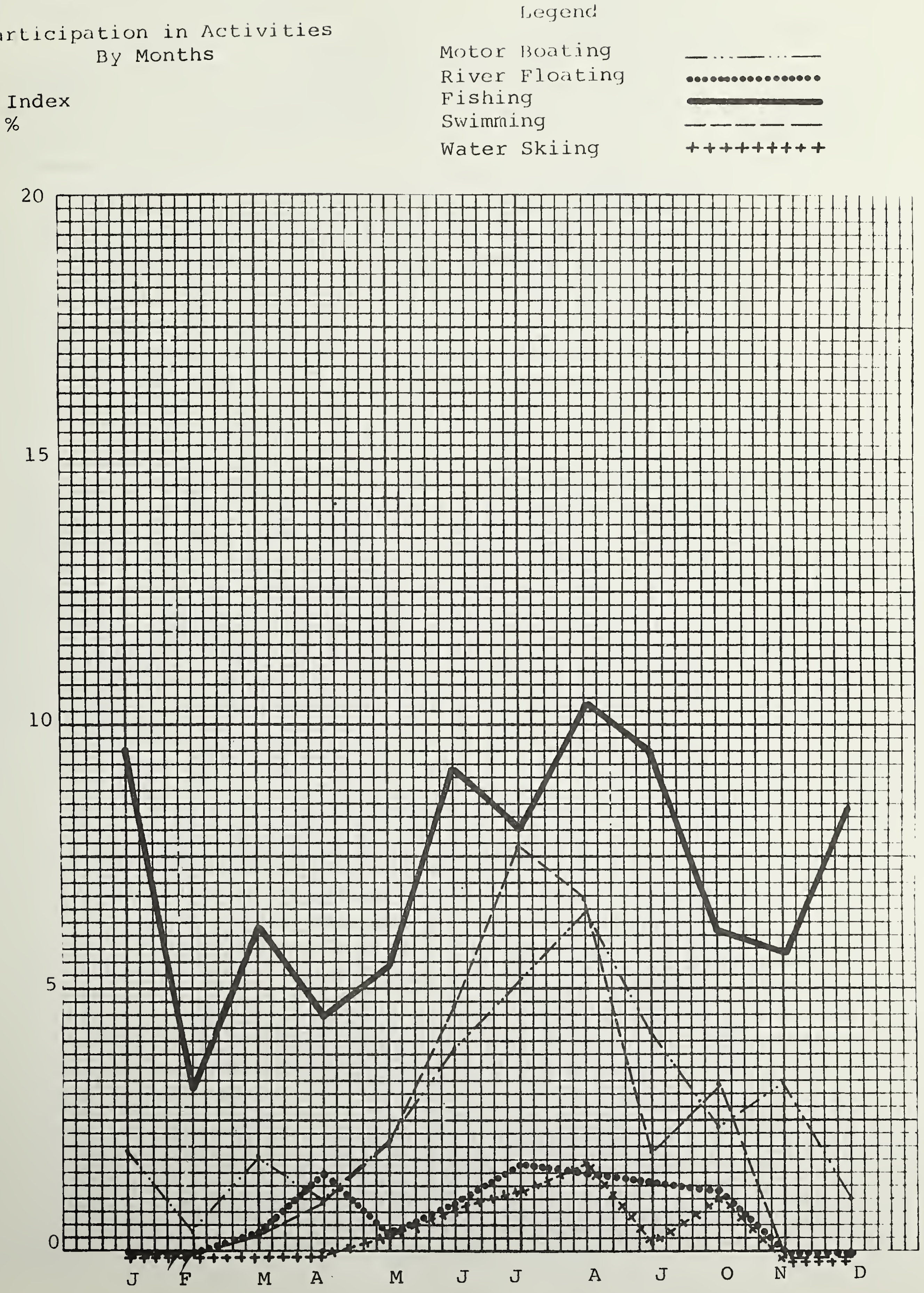
Participation in Activities
By Months



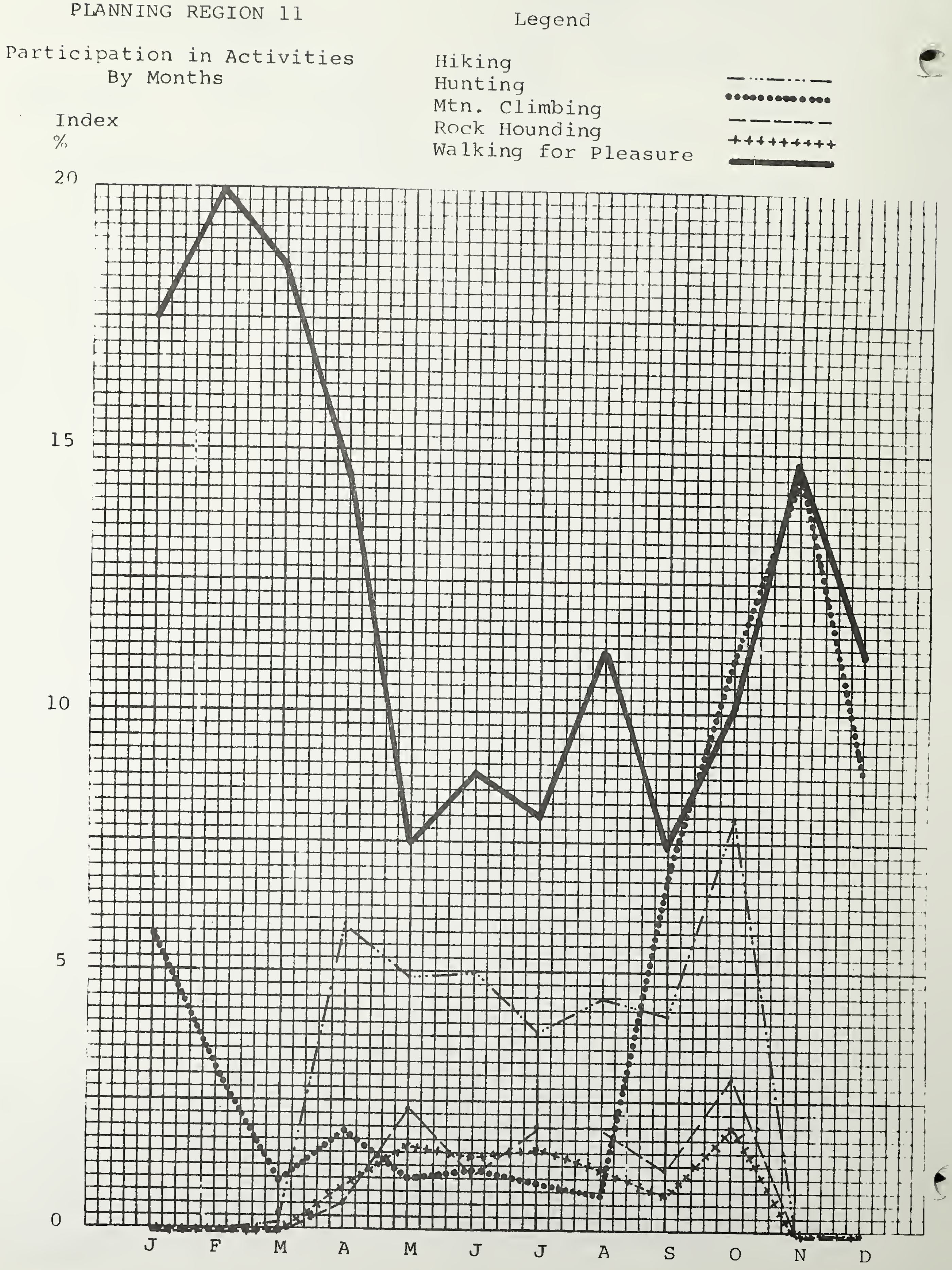
Activities Concentrated in One Area

PLANNING REGION 11

Participation in Activities
By Months



Water Oriented Activities



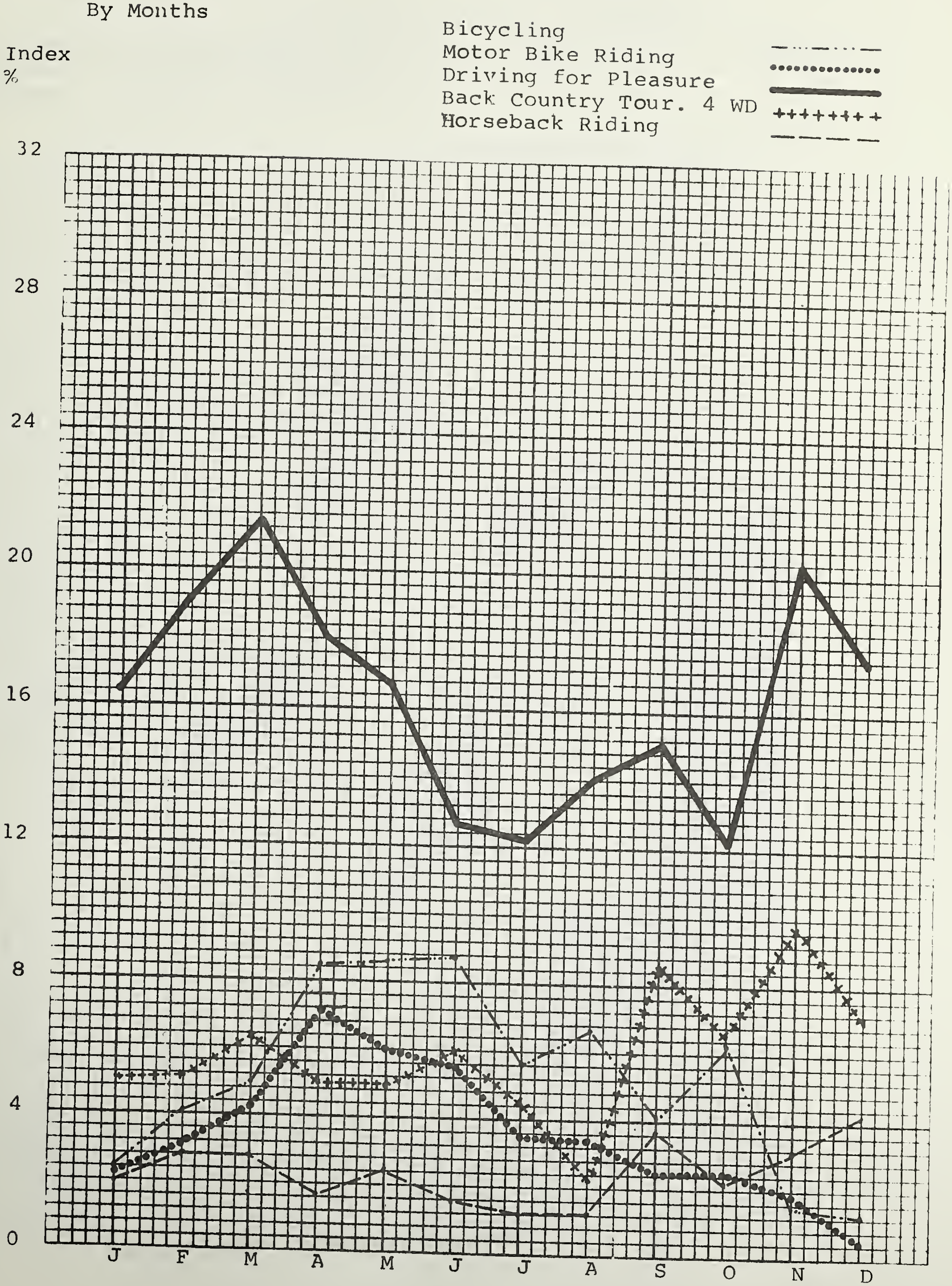
PLANNING REGION 11

Participation in Activities
By Months

Traveling Activities w/wo Vehicle

PLANNING REGION 11

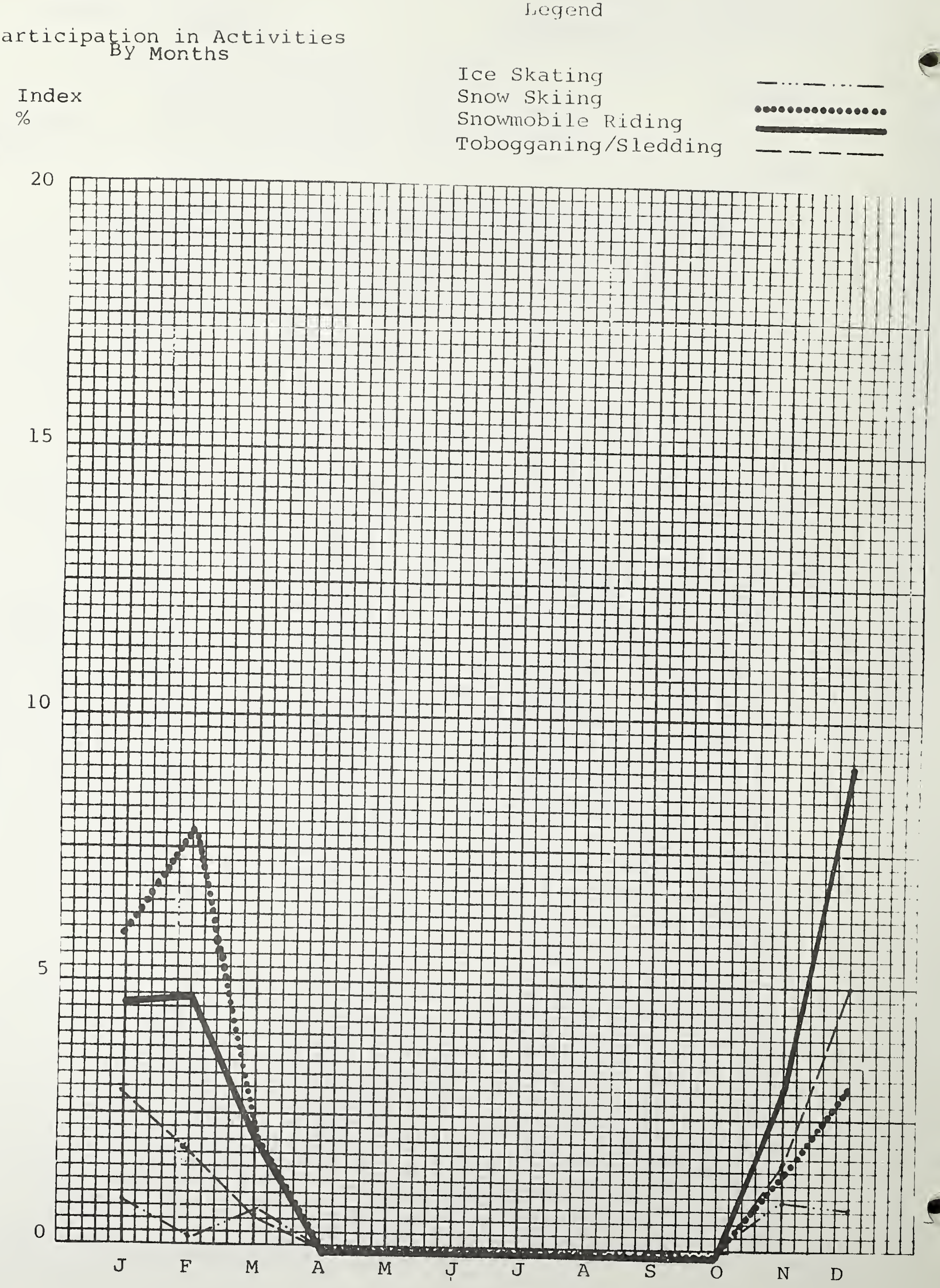
Participation in Activities
By Months



Traveling Activities - Vehicle Needed

PLANNING REGION 11

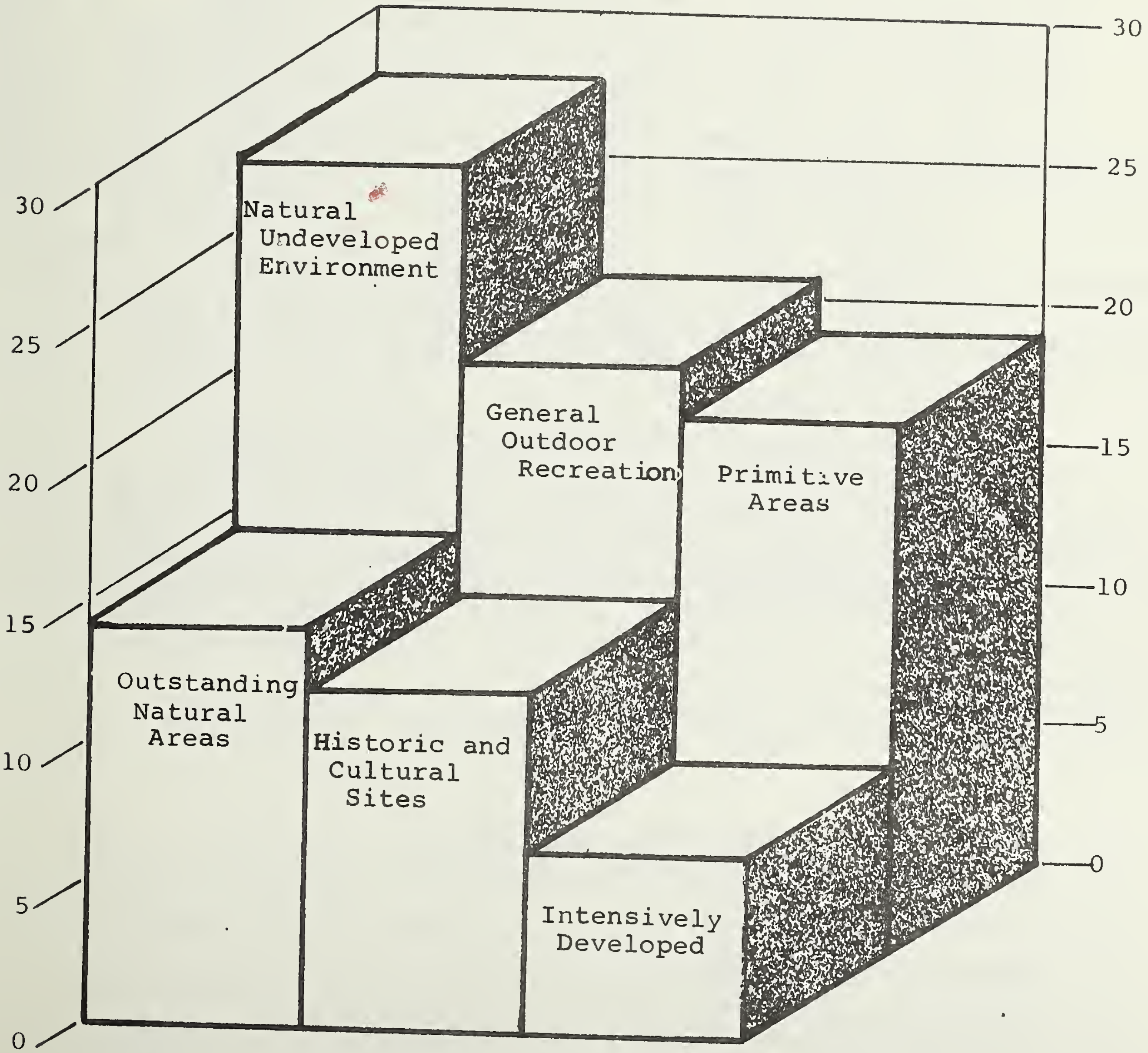
Participation in Activities By Months



Winter Activities

PLANNING REGION 11

Preferences for Selected Types of Recreation Areas by Montana Residents Yearly Totals



Numbers indicate a weighted percent based on the number of responses to first, second, and third preferences.

The following chart tabulates facilities available for recreation in the municipalities of Hamilton, Missoula, and Stevensville.

MUNICIPAL FACILITIES

UNICIPALITIES	1970 POPULATION	1972 PARK ACREAGE	Golf	Swimming Pool	Tennis	Multi-Purpose Courts	Baseball or Softball	Football	Children's Playgrounds	Large All Purpose Playfields	Picnic Areas	Designated Bike Trails	Indoor Recreation Centers	Facilities for the Handicapped	Special Accommodations for the Handicapped
Hamilton	2,499	10		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x				
	Facility Needs:											N	N	N	
Missoula	29,497	263		x	x		x								
	Facility Needs:		N	N	N	N	N		N	N	N	N	N		
Stevensville	829	5	x	x			x	x					x		
	Facility Needs:		N1		N	N	N		N	N	N	N		N	N
	Facility Needs:														
	Facility Needs:														
	Facility Needs:														
	Facility Needs:														

1. Improvements

Recreation and parks expenditures, which include money for maintenance operation, personnel, acquisition, and development are tabulated below:

MUNICIPAL EXPENDITURES

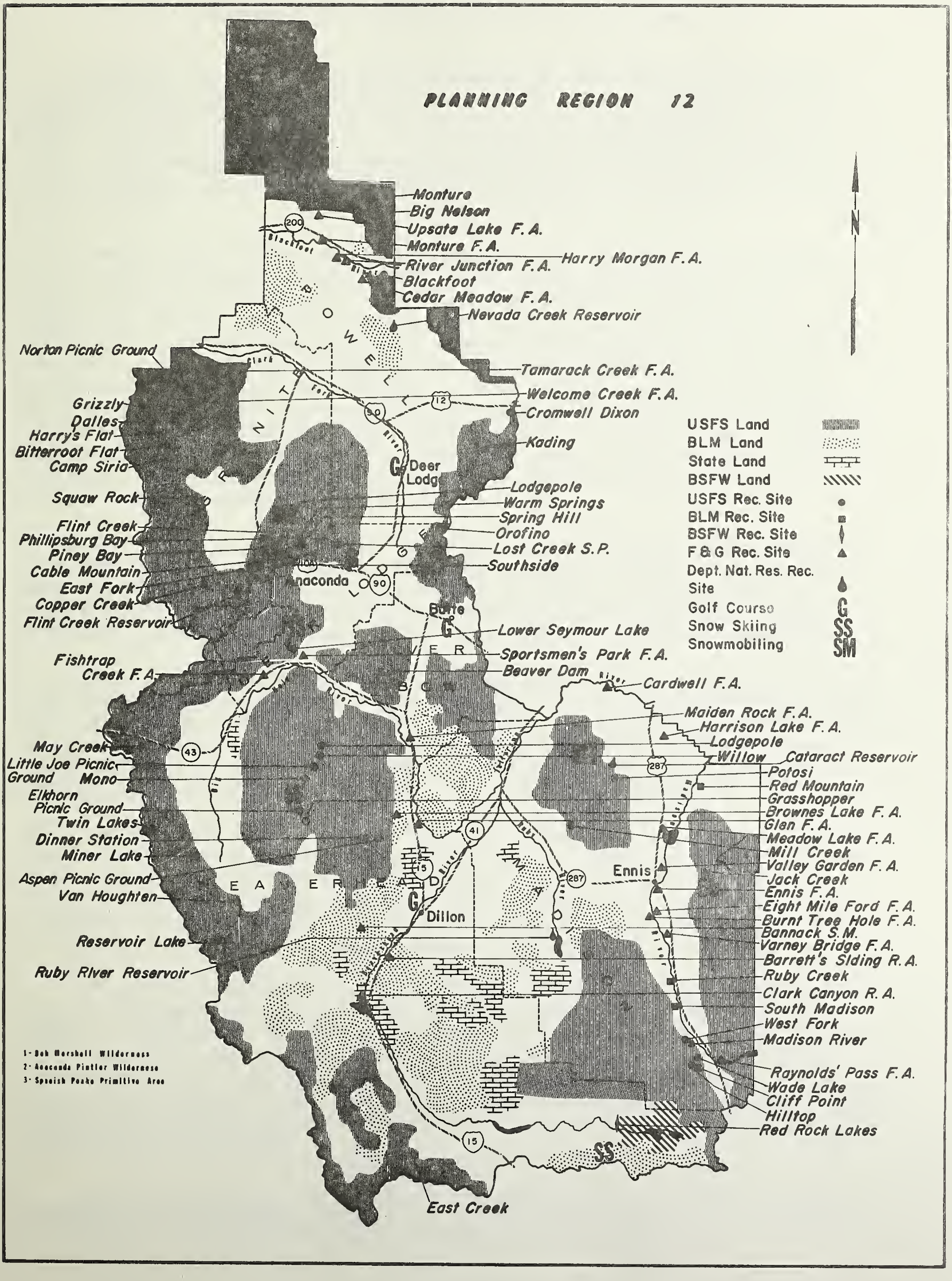
	F. Y. 1970	F. Y. 1971	F. Y. 1972
Hamilton	$ 17,565	$ 22,188	$ 19,819
Missoula	186,177	142,045	194,821
Stevensville	3,100	3,100	3,900

Hamilton indicates that new ball fields, tennis courts, basketball courts and skating rink have resulted in increased outdoor recreation opportunity. State assistance is needed in the form of matching funds. Requests have been received for bicycle and horse trails. A major problem for Hamilton is obtaining assistance in construction of a covered swimming pool.

Missoula considers its highest priority a golf course. Urban growth and population increase has necessitated an increase in recreational development. Funding assistance is needed from the state to assist in park and recreation facility development. A state levy is needed to assist in park development along with county and municipal funds to match B.O.R. funds. B.O.R. funds should also be provided for maintenance of new facilities built under the B.O.R. program.

The major problem for Missoula is the drain on city funds to develop park and recreation areas just outside city limits. The areas are only developed when they are annexed to the city but probably should be developed under county budgeting.

Stevensville's highest priorities are childrens' playgrounds, picnic areas and baseball/softball fields. With existing facilities, there are only a small number of local children who can participate in any type of recreation. State assistance is needed in helping finance park development. Presently there is land available but no local funds to develop facilities. The major problem for this community is the lack of local funds to provide recreational facilities.


PLANNING REGION 12
N
Monture
Big Nelson
Upsata Lake F.A.
Monture F.A.
Harry Morgan F.A.
River Junction F.A.
Blackfoot
Cedar Meadow F.A.
Nevada Creek Reservoir
Norton Picnic Ground
Tamarack Creek F.A.
Welcome Creek F.A.
Cromwell Dixon
Kading
Grizzly
Dalles
Harry's Flat
Bitterroot Flat
Camp Siria
Squaw Rock
Flint Creek
Phillipsburg Bay
Piney Bay
Cable Mountain
East Fork
Copper Creek
Flint Creek Reservoir
Lodgepole
Warm Springs
Spring Hill
Orofino
Lost Creek S.P.
Southside
Lower Seymour Lake
Sportsmen's Park F.A.
Beaver Dam
Cardwell F.A.
Fishtrap Creek F.A.
Maiden Rock F.A.
Harrison Lake F.A.
Lodgepole
Willow
Cataract Reservoir
Potosi
Red Mountain
Grasshopper
Brownes Lake F.A.
Glen F.A.
Meadow Lake F.A.
Mill Creek
Valley Garden F.A.
Jack Creek
Ennis F.A.
Eight Mile Ford F.A.
Burnt Tree Hole F.A.
Bannack S.M.
Varney Bridge F.A.
Barrett's Siding R.A.
Ruby Creek
Clark Canyon R.A.
South Madison
West Fork
Madison River
Raynolds' Pass F.A.
Wade Lake
Cliff Point
Hilltop
Red Rock Lakes
May Creek
Little Joe Picnic Ground
Mono
Elkhorn Picnic Ground
Twin Lakes
Dinner Station
Miner Lake
Aspen Picnic Ground
Van Houghten
Reservoir Lake
Ruby River Reservoir
East Creek
Deer Lodge
Anaconda
Butte
Ennis
Dillon
POWELL
GRANITE
DEER LODGE
SILVER BOW
BEAVERHEAD
MADISON
Blackfoot River
Clark Fork River
Big Hole River
Beaverhead River
Ruby River
Madison River
Jefferson River
200
12
90
90
43
287
41
15
287
15
USFS Land
BLM Land
State Land
BSFW Land
USFS Rec. Site ●
BLM Rec. Site ■
BSFW Rec. Site
F & G Rec. Site ▲
Dept. Nat. Res. Rec. Site
Golf Course G
Snow Skiing SS
Snowmobiling SM
1- Bob Marshall Wilderness
2- Anaconda Pintler Wilderness
3- Spanish Peaks Primitive Area

REGION 12

SUMMARY OF MAJOR RECREATION PROBLEMS

Region 12 is the largest geographic region in the state, ranging from the southern portion which lies adjacent to the West Yellowstone Entrance to the park, to the northerly tip which extends almost within the zone of influence of Glacier Park. The enormous size means that there is a great diversity of recreation resources available or potentially available to its people.

Region 12 is an uncrowded region, its population is not large with respect to the geographic area, and the residents, like the major resources, are well dispersed throughout the counties which comprise this district. Excellent travel routes place the recreationist within comparatively easy, if not close, access to most areas. Region 12 has the distinction, in the opinion of the planning staffs of the various public agencies, of having the best relationship of people to facilities in the entire state. In a broad and general way, there is an agreeable balance in the quantity and distribution of facilities to the quantity and distribution of people. The region does have some current and imminent problems, however.

The region is uniquely suited to the activity of snowmobiling due to the open lands, persistent snow, clear sunny weather and suitable terrain. As this is discovered by residents of other regions, there will be an even greater need to provide suitable areas and trails and to provide a management system.

The immense popularity of the Madison River and also the Big Hole for fishing mean that congestion will increase and with it the potential for pollution to these outstanding streams, as well as others. Private residential developments along rivers will further limit fishing access. Dispersion of pressures is needed to prevent deterioration of existing sites.

Georgetown Lake, very popular and very heavily used, is at the saturation point and pollution is an existing condition. At Rock Creek, the private developments are limiting access and creating potentials for further deterioration of the stream. Private recreation developments, of course, provide access here as well as at other streams in the region.

Private landowners have suffered trespass from hunters and other recreationists and thus access is being limited in some areas. Access to the public lands for hunting and other recreation purposes is not available at key areas. There has been vandalism at the several ghost towns due to the failure of the public to realize that the structures are private property. Less advertising and promotion of these would be desirable until protection is afforded.

The popularity of floating indicates that the rivers and streams of the region should be inventoried from that standpoint to provide increased opportunities for the public.

GEOGRAPHIC, POPULATION AND HISTORIC CHARACTERISTICS

High mountain ranges and broad valleys characterize this region of Montana. From the rugged peaks of the Bob Marshall Wilderness Area in the north to the Centennial Mountains in the south, which form the border between Idaho and Montana, Region 12 is an area of great diversity. Small mountainous lakes, major rivers, alpine peaks, dry barren hills, fertile river valleys, evergreen forests, pastoral countryside and industrial cities are all found in this region.

Many areas have been glaciated such as the Spanish Peaks, the Pintlars, the Tobacco Roots, and the Swan Range. Major mountain ranges, from north to south, are the Swan Range, the Garnet Range, the Flint Creek Range, the Main Range, the Anaconda-Pintlar Range, the Butte Highlands, the Pioneer Mountains, the Tobacco Root Mountains, the Beaverhead Range, the Ruby Range, the Gravelly Range, the Madison Range, and the Centennial Mountains. Most of the valley floors were at one time ancient lake beds.

Natural vegetation in Region 12 is also diverse. It ranges from deciduous cottonwoods, willows and alders along the rivers and streams to alpine grasslands on the higher peaks. In between are the grasslands and sagebrush of the valleys and hills, where not cultivated, and the coniferous forest and aspen of the more moist and mountainous expanses. The heavily forested mountains consist of a variety of conifer types. One of the most predominant is the lodgepole pine forest especially in the southern part of the region. Here it often occurs in pure stands and is probably related to the fire history of the southwestern mountains. The Montane forest consisting of spruce, Douglas fir and larch is encountered frequently in the northern part of Region 12, along with lodgepole pine forest. Some Ponderosa pine grows in a zone on the lower slopes of the mountains where site conditions are very dry.

The Continental Divide transects and also borders the region for much of its length. Waters flow to both the Atlantic and the Pacific Oceans. Rivers and streams are abundant in Region 12 with the Madison, Jefferson, Beaverhead and Big Hole Rivers flowing east of the divide and the Clark Fork and Blackfoot Rivers flowing west. Four major reservoirs lie on the east side of the divide: the Clark Canyon Reservoir, the Ruby, the Madison and the Lima. Red Rock Lakes and Quake Lake also lie on the east side. Georgetown Lake, a popular lake, lies on the west side of the divide.

Climatic conditions in Region 12 vary widely, with the area west of the divide generally being moister and subjected mostly to weather conditions of the Pacific fronts which originate to the west. This means generally somewhat milder and less extreme temperatures in the summer and winter. Snowfall is high in many of the mountainous areas. Rainfall is generally higher in the west with the maximum occurring in the spring. To the east of the divide, climatic conditions are suggestive of weather patterns generally found to the west, but are not entirely free from weather influences from the south and east. This creates a climate of much diversity.

The population of Region 12 is 80,231 according to the 1970 official census. County totals are indicated below.

REGION 12 POPULATION DISTRIBUTION

County		Persons
Beaverhead		8,187
Deer Lodge		15,652
Granite		2,737
Madison		5,014
Powell		6,660
Silver Bow		41,981
	Region Total	80,231

The great majority of the population in Region 12 is located in the Butte-Anaconda vicinity. Butte has a population of 23,368; Anaconda 9,771; and Walkerville 1,097. Other concentrations of people are found at Dillon, 4,548, and Deer Lodge, 4,306. Approximately 66% or 52,630 persons are urban residents. There are several hundred American Indians residing in Region 12, but in total, they probably create a relatively small impact on the region. While most of Region 12 lost population since 1960, Beaverhead County gained 14%. Madison County lost 4%; Powell County lost 5%; Granite County lost 9%; Silver Bow County, with Butte as its center, lost 10%; and Deer Lodge County, with Anaconda as its center, lost 16%.

Transportation facilities in this region consist of a major airport at Butte, rail facilities, and major highways to serve the area. Interstate 90 crosses the region from east to west, and Interstate 15 crosses north to south, both passing through Butte.

The economy of Region 12 is heavily oriented toward mining, with major mining and smelter centers at Butte and Anaconda. Ranching is important, particularly in the southern part of the region, and the forest industry is important throughout, with much timber harvested from national forest land. Some durable goods manufacturing takes place in Anaconda and Butte. These two cities are the economic and commerce centers for the region. Montana College of Mineral Science and Technology located at Butte, and Western Montana College at Dillon, are major centers of higher education.

Public land in Region 12 accounts for a high percentage (59.5%) of all land in the region. The following table indicates the percentage of public land in each county in Region 12.

PUBLIC LAND IN REGION 12*

County	Percentage	Square Miles
Beaverhead	66.5	3,700
Deer Lodge	36.7	271
Granite	66.2	1,135
Madison	54.7	1,935
Powell	53.6	1,253
Silver Bow	56.8	406
	59.5	8,700

*Does not include local government land

The public land holdings in this region are administered as follows:

PUBLIC LAND ADMINISTRATION -- REGION 12

Agency		Land (acres)
Federal		
U. S. Forest Service		3,813,738
Bureau of Land Management		1,096,718
Bureau of Sport Fisheries & Wildlife		32,085
Bureau of Reclamation		3,458
National Park Service		240
	Total	4,946,239
State		
Dept. of State Lands (not including State Forest land)		525,119
Montana Fish & Game Department		64,992
Office of the State Forester		29,251
	Total	619,362

(continued)

Agency (continued)	Land (acres)
Indian Reservation Land	0
Local	
Community parks	3,690

Regional Points of Interest

Butte
Major mining center for gold, silver, copper and zinc from hardrock mines and open pits. Was called the "richest hill on earth" and was home of the "copper kings," Daley, Clark and Heinze. World Museum of mining is located here, and Butte is home of Montana College of Mineral Science and Technology.

Madison Canyon Earthquake Area
Site of an awesome earthquake on August 17, 1959. Half a mountain slid into the canyon creating a giant dam and Quake Lake.

Georgetown Lake Area
A popular recreation area near Anaconda suitable for fishing, camping, swimming, and rockhounding. There are nearby ghost towns.

Alder Gulch
Site of Virginia City which became the Second Territorial Capital of Montana from 1865 to 1875. The gold strike which occurred here in 1863 was one of the greatest in the west.

Dillon Area
Here at Dillon is the home of Western Montana College and the Beaverhead County Museum. Nearby is Bannack, site of Montana's first major gold discovery in 1862. The former territorial capital is now undergoing renovation and preservation work undertaken by the Montana Department of Fish and Game through the historic sites program.

Historic Sites

The history represented in Region 12 is as diverse as the land itself. Historical sites and buildings remain which portray the early explorations by Lewis and Clark, the commerce, the Indian life, early ranching, and in particular, mining. Ghost towns, many of which had their existence based upon a gold or silver strike, are abundant throughout the region.

Bannack, 20 miles west of Dillon, was the site of the first major gold strike (1862) in Montana history. It became the First Territorial Capital and remained so until 1865. The town is a fine example of a surviving frontier mining town and is administered now as a state monument with many of the earlier buildings preserved.

The Big Hole National Battlefield preserves a part of the scene where on August 9-10, 1877, Colonel John Gibbon fought five bands of Nez Perce Indians who were attempting to flee to Canada. Gibbon's attack weakened the Nez Perce, who were later forced to surrender about 30 miles from their destination, after traveling 1,500 miles from Idaho.

Lemhi Pass is the point where the Lewis and Clark Expedition crossed the Continental Divide and left what was then the United States as represented by the Louisiana Purchase boundary. Much of the expedition's success depended upon the Shoshone Indians living in the vicinity of Lemhi Pass, and the supplies obtained from these Indians made possible the continuance of the trek to the Pacific Ocean.

The Marcus Daly Hotel is a fine example of a certain type of French Renaissance and Romanesque architecture. It was the fulfillment of a dream of a few Anaconda businessmen, among them Marcus Daly, one of the famous "Copper Kings" of Montana Territory.

Beaverhead Rock is a famous landmark relating to the Lewis and Clark Expedition. It was the first landmark recognized by Sacajawea on August 8, 1805, and enabled her to find her people, the Shoshone Indians. They provided invaluable supplies, including horses, to Lewis and Clark which enabled the expedition to continue westward.

Virginia City was the site of a major gold strike at Alder Gulch in 1863, one of the greatest in the west. Its period of importance was from 1865 to 1875 when it was the territorial capital of Montana. It has close association with one of the vigilante bands of the mining era which was formed to do away with the infamous Henry Plummer gang. Many buildings which date from the early period remain in the town.

The Grant-Kohrs Ranch near Deer Lodge is significant in the history of the range cattle industry. John Grant, the original owner, is often credited with being the founder of the cattle ranching business in Montana. Conrad Kohrs, who purchased the ranch in 1866, was one of the prominent "cattle kings" of the era. He was influential in forming the Montana Stockgrowers Association. Many of the early ranch buildings remain on the site.

Butte is the center of the largest copper mining region in the world. Within an area less than five square miles, Butte has produced more than two billion dollars worth of mineral wealth since 1864. The copper boom began with the arrival of the first railroad to Butte in 1881. Headframes and yellow and gray ore dumps mark the mines and give Butte its character -- a city where mining is still the major industry.

The William A. Clark Mansion exemplifies the rich and ornate life style of one of the three "Copper Kings" of the late 1800's. Clark, seeing the advantages and profit in copper mining, entered the field early and became involved in the "war of the Copper Kings" which began in 1888. Clark's Mansion was begun in 1884 and finished four years later at a cost, at that time, of $260,000. Its architectural style is "modern Elizabethan."

HISTORIC SITES IN REGION 12

Historic Site	County	Significant Date	Significance
Argenta	Beaverhead	1864	Industry
NR-NHL Bannack Historic District	Beaverhead	1862	Industry; Political
Beaverhead County Courthouse	Beaverhead	1876	Architecture
NR-NHL Big Hole National Battlefield	Beaverhead	1877	Military
Camp Fortunate	Beaverhead	1805	Exploration
Elkhorn-Cooledge	Beaverhead	1873	Industry
Glendale	Beaverhead	1870's	Industry
NR-NHL Lemhi Pass	Beaverhead	1805	Exploration
Methodist Church, Bannack	Beaverhead	1860's	Architecture
School and Masonic Temple, Bannack	Beaverhead	1874	Architecture
Vanderburgh Site	Beaverhead	1832	Commerce
Georgetown-Southern Cross	Deer Lodge	1866	Industry
Marcus Daly Hotel	Deer Lodge	1888	Arch.; Mining
Bearmouth	Granite	1865	Commerce
Garnet	Granite	1865	Industry
Granite	Granite	1872	Industry
Miners Union Hall, Granite	Granite	1890	Architecture

(continued)

Historic Site (cont'd.)	County	Significant Date	Significance
New Chicago	Granite	1872	Commerce
Superintendent's House, Granite	Granite	1888	Architecture
NR Beaverhead Rock	Madison	1805	Exploration, Historic-Aboriginal
Content Corner, Virginia City	Madison	1865	Architecture
Laurin	Madison	1863	Commerce
Madison County Courthouse, V.C.	Madison	1876	Architecture
Montana-Utah Trails	Madison	1860's	Commerce; Transportation
Nevada City	Madison	1860's	Industry
Pony	Madison	1875	Industry
Robber's Roost	Madison	1864	Architecture
Sanders (Colonel W. F.) Residence, V. C.	Madison	1867	Architecture
Summit-Union City	Madison	1863	Industry
NR-NHL Virginia City Historic District	Madison	1863	Industry, Political
Blackfoot City	Powell	1860's	Industry
Emery	Powell	1890's	Industry
Gold Creek	Powell	1858	Industry
NR-NHL Grant-Kohrs Ranch	Powell	1853	Agriculture
Pioneer	Powell	1860	Industry
NR-NHL Butte Historic Dist.	Silver Bow	1876	Industry
NR William A. Clark Mansion	Silver Bow	1884	Arch.; mining
Columbia Gardens	Silver Bow	1900	Landscape Arch.
Fez Club, Butte	Silver Bow	1890's	Architecture
Highland City-Red Mountain	Silver Bow	1866	Industry
World Museum of Mining, Butte	Silver Bow	1890's	Education

NR = Site is listed on the National Register

NHL = Site is a National Historic Landmark

CHARACTERISTICS OF RECREATION USE

Leisure Time in Region 12

Outdoor recreation for Region 12 residents is very significant and ranked a close second to indoor-spectator activities which accounted for the most popular way of spending leisure time. Home-related activities ranked third and social activities ranked fourth but neither came close to the popularity of indoor-spectator activities or outdoor recreation. Outdoor recreation was engaged in most frequently in July, least frequently in January. During the twelve-month period, the greatest amount of leisure time available for residents of this region was indicated for October, whereas the least amount was available in November.

The popularity of outdoor recreation activities was fairly consistant throughout the year, with minor ups and downs. Reaching a peak in July this is the only month in which outdoor recreation exceeded other leisure time activities. Indoor-spectator activities were popular in the winter and spring. Self-improvement activities reached a peak during the late spring. Indoor play activities reached a peak in the fall and winter. None of the leisure time activities had a great variation in popularity throughout the year as all were relatively consistant with only minor variations.

(For a more complete graphic account see Appendix .)

The Characteristics and Viewpoints of the Park User in Region 12

Residents and non-residents were nearly even in their use of recreation facilities in Region 12. In no other region in the state was the balance of resident to non-resident use so close. Residents accounted for 53% of the use and non-resident 47% of the use of facilities in this region. Of the resident users 18% originated in Silver Bow County, 10% originated in Deer Lodge County both within the region. Other counties outside of the region accounted for the balance of resident use, particular Gallatin County, Cascade County, Missoula County and Yellowstone County. It appears that the high percentage of use of facilities in Region 12 is attributed to residents living outside of the region, and non-residents. Of those recreationists residing in Region 12 approximately 68% remain in the region to recreate. Nearly 18% go out of the region and recreate in the Helena area. Other popular regions are the Missoula and Bozeman areas. The prevalent party size encountered by the survey was that of two persons.

In Region 12, day use visits were about equal to overnight and more lengthy stays. Recreationists using facilities in Region 12 chose their recreation site most often because it was a place at which they could engage in a desired recreation activity. 58% chose a recreation area for this reason. The second most prevalent reason for choosing a recreation area in Region 12 was because of the natural beauty surrounding the area. Facilities conditions at recreation areas in this region were generally on a par or slightly above the state average. Environmental factors were generally on a par or slightly above the state average. In particular, sufficient space in recreation areas rated above the state average. Only 27% of all those respondents surveyed indicated the need for additional recreation facilities or activities at given areas throughout the region.

Of all the activities the most popular for recreationists in Region 12 were fishing, resting and relaxing, camping, walking for pleasure, and picnicking in that order. Stated preference for recreation activities correlated very closely, with fishing, resting and relaxing, and camping remaining the first, second, and third preferrences. Walking for pleasure and picnicking changed places.

Implications

1. Since day use visits approximate overnight or lengthy stays, accommodations for both uses should be provided on approximately equal basis.

2. Agencies providing recreation facilities in this region should be aware of the fact that much use is by residents from out of this region. The great diversity of recreation opportunities may be the primary drawing factor in attracting visitors from out of the region and the state to Region 12.

3. The choice of a recreation area by recreationists in Region 12 is influenced considerably by the surrounding natural beauty of an area. This factor would be considered in developing future recreation area. But more important is the fact that recreationists are interested in the activities which they can engage in at various recreation areas. The popularity of various recreation activities should be considered to a high degree when providing recreation facilities in the region.

4. The condition of facilities and of environmental factors appear to be quite adequate in many selected area in the region. Since only 27% of all respondents surveyed indicated a need for additional recreation activities of facilities at selected areas in Region 12, it would appear that recreationists are generally satisfied with present conditions.

5. The high popularity of fishing in Region 12 would indicate continued or increased emphasis on providing facilities and access for such an activity. Resting and relaxing and camping, walking and picnicking, also being popular in the region, would indicate a need for providing facilities to accommodate such activities. Provision of facilities to accommodate passive recreation, which is closely related to the above activities, should be considered.

The Montana Resident

Characteristics of the resident respondents can be found in Appendixes. These data include the respondents' marital status, sex, age, household status, employment, vacation allowance, available time and general health.

Tables following indicate the frequency of participation in various activities by those surveyed and is a measure of popularity in Region 12.

Some correlation exists between the recreation activities residents engaged in, and those indicated as most preferred. Driving for pleasure ranked first both in participation and preference and other activities shifted position just slightly between the two categories. Fishing, backcountry touring, hunting, camping and snowmobiling made slight gains in the stated preference of recreationists, over the actual participation in those activities. Walking for pleasure, sightseeing, hiking, and playing outdoor games declined slightly in popularity when relating stated preference to the actual participation in such activities.

Fishing, the most popular water-oriented activity, was engaged in to the highest degree during the summer and fall in Planning Region 12. Its popularity decreased somewhat in November, December and January. Motor boating reached a peak in June and swimming reached a peak in August but no water-oriented activity exceeded at any time the popularity of fishing in Region 12.

In winter activities, snowmobiling far exceeded other activities in popularity throughout the winter months. Sightseeing was the most popular recreation activity in its category, reaching a peak in the colder months and dropping off considerably in the summer. It was exceeded in popularity by playing outdoor games (children) in June and by picnicking in May, July and August. Walking for pleasure was the most popular activity of its nature for region 12 residents, reaching a peak in the colder months, dropping off in the warmer months. Its popularity was not exceeded by any other activity of its type during the year, not even by hunting. Hunting however, was very popular in the region and nearly exceeded walking for pleasure in popularity in the fall. Driving for pleasure far exceeded other activities where a vehicle is used, and reached a peak of popularity in the colder months, dropping off in the warmer months. Other activities in this category such as bicycling, backcountry touring, motor bike riding, and horseback riding all remained relatively constant in popularity throughout the year and never came close to driving for pleasure in popularity. (For a detailed graphic account see Appendix.)

Natural environment areas at which there is a minimum of facility development were rated most preferred by Region 12 residents. Second most popular were the general outdoor recreation areas such as state parks and forest campgrounds where facilities for camping, picnicking, boating, etc. were available. The third most popular area for Region 12 residents were the primitive areas. These would include such places as the Anaconda-Pintlar Wilderness, the Bob Marshall Wilderness and the Spanish Peaks area. Outstanding natural areas such as Lewis and Clark Caverns and historic and cultural sites were rated fourth and fifth preference respectively. (See Appendix for further details.)

Implications

1. Driving for pleasure is indicated as being the most popular activity in Region 12, based on participation in such an activity. Associated sightseeing is also rated very high in this region. Although new roads to accommodate driving for pleasure are certainly not necessarily desirable, facilities to enhance driving for pleasure and sightseeing on existing roads should probably be made available. With such a diversity of land and landscape in this region, the potential for driving and sightseeing is quite high in this region.

2. Fishing, because of its popularity in preference and participation, should be accorded the attention it deserves. Continued attempts to increase access to water bodies and rivers should be considered.

3. At points of interest and within towns facilities for such activities as walking for pleasure and picnicking should be provided. In particular, because of the high popularity of picnicking in the region, special attention should be given to provision of facilities for this activity.

4. Other activities which should receive increased attention are hunting, camping, snowmobiling, and backcountry touring. All these activities showed increases in stated preference over actual participation.

5. Children's activities which should receive a greater attention in the future are bicycling, playing outdoor games, and fishing.

6. Residents of Region 12 prefer natural undeveloped environment areas and primitive areas to recreate in, although a sizable percentage desire outdoor recreation areas where normal developed facilities are available. Access to more remote areas of the national forest should be assured and increased to enable Region 12 residents the opportunity to use the more natural, undeveloped, and primitive areas which they desire. Facilities should continue to be provided at keylocations where specific popular activities may be engaged in. Water and scenery are desirable factors to be considered in future selection of sites.

Problems and Potentials for Recreation in Region 12

The potential for driving for pleasure and sightseeing in Region 12 is relatively high with the great diversity of land and vegetation plus the abundance of many types of historic sites. Ghost towns in the mountains provide a major source of sightseeing attractions for residents of this region. The opportunity for loop trips in visiting various sites and attractions is relatively good for this region because of the road system. Walking for pleasure is also an activity which can be engaged in and enjoyed at many historic sites in the area as well as in the towns and cities of Region 12. The many natural attractions also offer ideal locations for such an activity to take place.

A situation exists on the Big Hole River which relates to the fishing opportunity available there. Federal agencies are somewhat reluctant to develop to any degree on the Big Hole River because of extensive damage from indiscriminate driving in the area. There is adequate fishing opportunity in the river, however, and this should be available to the public. Dickie Bridge on the Big Hole River has experienced some 200 vehicles counted at different times, leading to a closure of this area for a period. For a time, future use of this area will be limited to fishing access and picnicking only. Camping will be prohibited. Fire is also a problem at this area. There appears to be a need for correlation of fishing and hunting needs and access points on the rivers. This would indicate an extensive survey be conducted on all rivers in the area.

Off-road vehicle use will be controlled by the new Federal regulations which are being devised by respective public agencies. Because of the extensive damage to the environment, this type of action has become necessary. Challenging trails as well as touring trails are needed to accommodate both motor bike riders and other backcountry vehicles. The problem concerns where the trails should be located, and how regulation of such use should be carried out. Perhaps quarries or slag piles would serve as a challenge type area, and provision of specific trails to help save other areas from damage may be a major solution for the problem. Private clubs should also be consulted to help regulate indiscriminate use of trail bikes, etc. Developed bike use areas in the vicinity of certain campgrounds could attract bikes to those areas and may be a partial solution for the problems which they cause at the camping grounds. There are no designated trails at present, and the problem is difficult as some bikers are not responsive to regulations. One area which would appear to be a good opportunity for bike trails would be at Thompson Park, Old highways might also be designated as trails. On the Deer Lodge Forest, Dempsey Creek is undergoing heavy use by bikers at this time. Perhaps new concepts of campground use and design will evolve in order to accommodate such new activities as biking.

Picnicking, a very popular activity in this region, is being provided with large undeveloped areas as well as developed sites to help meet the demand. The demand for picnicking is not necessarily met with developed units. Considerable picnic activity also takes place at some national wildlife refuges which are not located too far from centers of population; much of it is related to wildlife watching. Refuges consider, on an individual basis, what types of recreation activity they can best supply. Presently there is modest picnic use on the Madison River, as the conditions which many people desire for picnicking, such as trees and shelter and low winds do not appear to be the case on the Madison. The Forest Service indicates that dispersed picnic use is generally low at this time. Picnic areas which are heavily used are usually those close to a community such as Thompson Park near Butte. Many picnic areas are heavily used on evenings and weekends. For example, Grasshopper and Dinner Station are quite popular at these times. Also heavy use of picnic areas is often related to proximity to the highway and population centers. Much forest land is normally too far away for heavy picnic use by residents of the towns and cities. Easements and access are needed to the public domain to provide for such activity.

Camping is popular in Region 12, and there is an abundance of camping sites and areas. Presently, there does not seem to be much of a problem with camping in undeveloped areas on many national forest lands. Litter barrels are provided, and cleanup and maintenance work is carried on in some of these areas. Signs are also provided asking the visitor's cooperation in cleaning up. Self-contained units need disposal stations and these are sometimes lacking at undeveloped sites. Access for camping has been increased at Racetrack Creek, where the Job Corps has assisted. Right-of-ways to private lands for access to public land is continually being sought. A future development project which the Forest Service is undertaking is a small lake purchase to the northeast of Butte at which handicapped persons can be accommodated. The Job Corps is assisting the Forest Service in this endeavor. Camping is extensive on the Madison River because of the fishing opportunity; there is considerable boating as well. Campgrounds in the Basin area are used quite often for picnics as well as camping. Little conflict exists since they are used at different periods of time. At Georgetown Lake, local campers often go elsewhere in the area rather than remain at the lake campgrounds because of the use fee. There may be future problems on streams in the area as a result of camping on undeveloped areas. On the West Fork of the Skalkaho Pass there will be future developments of some campground units.

For cleanup at undeveloped camping areas, work is often contracted out to the private sector. Where possible heavy development such as improvement of roads etc. is also contracted out to the private sector, To help overcome the problem of cleanup, perhaps more personnel for patroling these undeveloped sites is a partial solution. Limited seasons, permits for this type of camping and other means may also alleviate such a problem. The Bureau of Land Management has provided signs and designation for sites for undeveloped camping. Local clubs have often provided litter barrels to help maintain these areas. Despite this such areas as Dickie Bridge and the Divide areas may have to be closed due to overuse and sanitation problems. The semi-primitive area at Ruby Reservoir, maintained by the BLM, received heavy use even though it was not developed. A major problem is the lack of adequate sewage facilities in the area. On Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife Refuges there is no dispersed camping. Some of the big game ranges have undeveloped camping opportunity. The Red Rock Lakes Area does have some camp and picnic units but access to this area is often difficult for the general public.

The main objective of the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife is to provide for the wildlife first and foremost before accommodating human use. Many inquiries were received from the Yellowstone area regarding recreation opportunity at the Red Rock Kake Refuge, and at times, the Red Rocks area receives recreation use as overflow from Yellowstone National Park.

Boating generally takes place on the major rivers and streams in the region and is often related to fishing. Boating also occurs on the reservoirs in the area such as the Clark Canyon and Ruby. Boating will also be available in the future at the North Boulder watershed project of the SCS. Lake zoning for most lakes or reservoirs will undoubtedly be required in the future. It is already in effect on many lakes to control the use. There is also an adequate resource for river floating in this region. Much should be done to make the public aware of the various recreation areas in this region.

Winter sports are quite popular in the area as most of the mountainous regions receive a substantial winter snowfall. There are snowmobile trails located in the Georgetown Lake region, the area north of Butte, and the Tobacco Root Mountains. Snow-skiing facilities are abundant in the area with major facilities being located at the Georgetown Lake area (Wraith Hill), at Deep Creek 34 miles southwest of Butte, at Maverick Mountain near Elk Horn Hot Springs, at Jack Creek 11 miles east of Ennis, at Lake View Mountain 28 miles east of Monida, at Beef Trail 8 miles southwest of Butte, and nearby Z-Bar-T 16 miles south of Butte. This is evidence of the opportunity, the good conditions, and the popularity of skiing in Region 12.

Inventory of Facilities

Federal and State Recreation Facilities

In Region 12, the major public agencies which provide recreation area facilities and land for public use are the U. S. Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management, the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, and the Montana Fish and Game Department. Major areas with selected facilities are summarized below:

FEDERAL AND STATE RECREATION AREAS - REGION 12

Federal	Picnic Units	Camping Units	Swimming	Fishing	Boat Ramp
U. S. Forest Service (as of March 1, 1974)					
Beaverhead N.F.					
Aspen Picnic Area	5	0	0	X	0
Balanced Rock	2	0	0	0	0
Bear Creek	0	2	0	X	0
Boot Lake	1	2	0	X	0
Branham Lakes	0	3	0	X	0
Canyon	0	3	0	X	0
Canyon Creek	0	3	0	X	0
Cliff Lake	0	0	0	X	X
Cliff Point	0	6	0	X	0
Cottonwood	0	2	0	X	0
Deadman Lake	2	0	0	X	0
Dinner Station	4	7	0	X	0

Federal	Picnic Units	Camping Units	Swimming	Fishing	Boat Ramp
Beaverhead N.F. (continued)					
East Creek	4	0	0	0	0
Grasshopper	2	24	0	0	0
Hilltop	0	18	0	0	0
Hollow Top Lake	0	1	0	X	0
Jack Creek	0	6	0	X	0
Little Joe	40	4	0	0	0
Lodgepole	0	6	0	X	0
Madison River	0	10	0	X	0
Mill Creek	0	9	0	0	0
Miner Lake	2	13	0	X	X
Mono Creek	0	5	0	0	0
Mussigbrod	2	4	0	X	0
North Hidden Lake	0	1	0	X	X
North Van Houten	0	3	0	X	0
Pear Lake	1	2	0	0	0
Pintlar	2	2	0	X	0
Potosi	0	15	0	X	0
Reservoir Lake	10	19	0	X	X
Sacajawea Memorial	1	1	0	0	0
Seymor	0	17	0	0	0
South Hidden Lake	0	1	0	X	X
South Morrison Lake	2	0	0	X	0
South Van Houten	1	2	0	X	0
Steel Creek	2	1	0	X	0
Twin Lakes	0	14	0	X	X

Federal	Picnic Units	Camping Units	Swimming	Fishing	Boat Ramp
Beaverhead N.F. (continued)					
Wade Lake	0	11	0	X	X
West Fork	0	5	0	X	0
Willow	0	6	0	X	0
Deerlodge N.F.					
Beaver Dam	10	5	0	0	0
Cable Mountain	0	11	0	X	0
Canyon	8	0	0	X	0
Copper Creek	0	7	0	X	0
Crystal Creek	0	3	0	0	0
Dentons Point	0	0	X	X	X
East Fork	0	7	X	X	0
Echo Lake	10	0	X	X	0
Flint Creek	0	10	0	X	0
Grassy Point	0	0	0	X	X
Lodgepole	0	31	X	X	X
Lost Creek	13	2	0	X	0
May Creek	9	12	0	X	0
Orofino	18	10	0	0	0
Philipsburg Bay	0	19	X	X	0
Pigeon Creek	0	6	0	X	0
Piney Bay	0	21	X	X	0
Racetrack	0	10	0	X	0
Red Bridge	0	0	0	X	X
Rusinski	0	0	0	X	X
Southside	0	8	X	X	0

Federal	Picnic Units	Camping Units	Swimming	Fishing	Boat Ramp
Deerlodge N.F. (continued)					
Spillway	0	6	X	X	0
Spring Hill Campground	6	13	0	0	0
Spring Hill Picnic Ground	20	0	0	X	X
Squaw Rock	0	10	0	X	0
Stewart Lake	5	0	0	X	0
Warm Springs Campground	0	6	0	X	0
Warm Springs Picnic Ground	13	0	0	X	0
Helena N.F.					
Blackfoot	0	23	0	X	0
Cromwell Dixon	5	14	0	0	0
Kading	0	14	0	0	0
Lolo N.F.					
Big Nelson	0	6	0	X	X
Bitterroot Flat	2	15	0	X	0
Dalles	0	10	0	X	0
Grizzly	4	9	0	X	0
Harry's Flat	0	14	0	X	0
Monture	0	5	0	0	0
Norton	10	0	0	X	0
Siria	0	4	0	X	0
Total	216	539	8	62	14
Bureau of Land Management					
Red Mountain	12	22	0	X	0

Federal	Picnic Units	Camping Units	Swimming	Fishing	Boat Ramp
Bureau of Land Management (continued					
Ruby Creek	18	28	0	X	0
South Madison	18	44	0	X	0
Total	48	94	0	3	0
Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife					
Red Rock Lakes	5	10	0	X	0
Total	5	10	0	1	0
State					
Montana Fish and Game Department					
Bannack SM	11	10	0	0	0
Barretts Siding SRA	13	0	0	0	0
Beavertail Hill SRA	0	0	0	0	0
Brown's Lake FAS	3	3	0	X	X
Burnt Tree Hole FAS	0	0	0	X	0
Cardwell FAS	3	2	0	X	0
Cedar Meadow FAS	0	0	0	X	0
Clark Canyon SRA	48	50	X	X	X
Eight-Mile Ford FAS	0	0	0	X	0
Ennis FAS	5	5	0	X	X
Fishtrap Creek FAS	0	0	0	X	0
Glenn FAS	12	0	0	X	0
Harrison Lake FAS	4	8	0	X	X
Harry Morgan FAS	0	0	0	X	0
Lost Creek SP	5	21	0	0	0

State	Picnic Units	Camping Units	Swimming	Fishing	Boat Ramp
Montana Fish and Game Department (continued)					
Maiden Rock FAS	7	8	0	X	0
Meadow Lake FAS	0	0	0	X	X
Monture FAS	7	0	0	X	0
Reynolds Pass FAS	0	0	0	X	0
River Junction	0	4	0	X	0
Sportsman's Park FAS	0	0	0	X	0
Tamarack Creek FAS	2	0	0	X	0
Upsata Lake FAS	2	0	0	X	0
Valley Garden FAS	4	4	0	X	0
Varney Bridge FAS	0	0	0	X	X
Welcome Creek FAS	4	0	0	X	0
Total	130	115	1	22	6
Total Selected Facilities Region 12	399	758	9	88	20

MAJOR RECREATION RESOURCES

THE BEAVERHEAD NATIONAL FOREST

The information on the Beaverhead Forest has been provided through the office of the Forest Supervisor

Historical Background

The Beaverhead National Forest and the adjacent land areas have an interesting early day history. Many people visit this area each year to view or study the old mines, towns and other historical landmarks.

The Beaverhead Valley was first seen by white men when the Lewis and Clark Expedition passed through the area on the way to the Pacific Ocean. On August 12, 1805, the group first crossed the Continental Divide at 7,373 foot Lemhi Pass. The group returned by way of the Big Hole Valley in 1806.

The first major Montana gold strike was at Bannack in 1862. Shortly thereafter, a major strike was made at Virginia City. By 1864, Virginia City had a population of 10,000. Bannack became the first Territorial Capital. As the yield of placer gold declined at Bannack, the Territorial Capital was moved to Virginia City. Several old mining camps and towns are located throughout the Beaverhead area. Alder Gulch produced $10,000,000 in gold in 1863.

Montana's first sawmill was built west of Sheridan. The first smelter was at Argenta. There were early-day smelters in Birch Creek and at Glendale. Charcoal kilns, used to provide fuel to smelters, can still be found in Rattlesnake Creek, Trapper Creek, and Canyon Creek on the east slope of the Pioneer Mountains.

Montana's first cattle ranches were established during the peak periods of the boom towns of Bannack and Virginia City. Horse Prairie Creek, the Beaverhead River and the Ruby River areas were best known for this use.

In 1877, Chief Joseph and his band of Nez Perce Indians left their reservation in eastern Washington. Pursued by Federal troops, the Nez Perce fought several battles, retreated through the Bitterroot Valley and were engaged in a major battle at what is now the Big Hole Battlefield National Monument west of Wisdom, Montana. From here, the Indians retreated southward into Idaho before turning eastward toward the Yellowstone Park Area.

The first roads into Montana connected the Bannack and Virginia City gold camps with railroad towns in Utah. The Utah and Northern Railroad reached Dillon in 1890 to give Montana its first railroad transportation.

RECREATION

Recreational use is increasing rapidly on the relatively undeveloped Beaverhead National Forest. Important factors in the increased use are the faster access created by improved highways, public dissatisfaction with crowded population centers, public interest in historic areas and travel routes, and increased interest in backpacking and wilderness opportunities.

Local people continue to use the Forest as they always have; however, an increasing number of visitors are coming from non-local areas. There has been a sharp increase in recreational vehicle use, such as trailers, pickup and pull-type campers, all terrain vehicles, snow machines, and power boats.

Recreational visitors use the entire Forest and are primarily interested in hunting and fishing. Sightseeing, especially by tourists who are passing through this area toward Yellowstone National Park, is becoming more important.

Hunting activities are predominantly oriented toward the sizeable elk and deer herds; however, limited hunting is also available and utilized for moose, mountain sheep, mountain goat, and antelope.

Fishing is almost entirely for trout and the less common grayling. Fishing pressure is normally light except for a few streams and lakes having a reputation for either abundant fish or for trophy-sized fish.

Picnicking is mostly by local people and is concentrated in those picnic areas and campgrounds nearest the local communities. Picnicking and summer camping are often done in connection with fishing trips and often along roads, creeks, and rivers rather than in developed sites. Picnicking activities are increasing faster than local population.

The Beaverhead Forest has considerable numbers of game birds. Because of the travel distrances involved and the rough terrain, upland bird hunting has never become popular in this area. The lower valleys contain large numbers of ducks and geese and these birds receive considerable hunting pressure.

Boating is largely associated with fishing. The higher lakes generally do not have suitable access to allow boating, however, rubber rafts are occasionally packed by trail to the high mountain lakes. A few of the lower lakes, such as Cliff, Wade and Elk Lake, have road access, and receive some use by motor boats. While some water skiing is done, there are no bodies of water on the National Forest which are really suitable. The high elevations and low water temperatures also discourage swimming. There are no streams within the National Forest that provide motor boating opportunities.

From a recreational standpoint, the Cliff Lake Bench Natural Area on the Madison District is used primarily for big game hunting.

One organization camp, the Mission Covenant Church Camp is located at the old Birch Creek CCC Camp. There appears to be sufficient privately-owned organized camp sites, and the Beaverhead National Forest has discouraged special use permits for this purpose.

Recreation activity, other than associated with hunting and fishing, has been light until recently. As the public is getting more leisure time and as better equipment is developed, other types of recreational use is increasing rapidly. Big increases are noticed in the hobbies of following historic trails, exploring historic sites, photography, artifact hunting and rock hunting.

Snowmobile use is increasing fast. Because of the extensive open areas suitable for snowmobile use, the dry snow conditions and the amount of clear winter weather, the Beaverhead area is prime snowmobile country. Snowmobile use has been mostly by local people, but some non-local people are beginning to use this area because of its fine qualities.

There is one developed special use winter sport site for skiing at Rainy Mountain. Facilities include a double chair lift, a platter pull lift, a lodge, and a parking lot. During the 1970-1971 season, a peak number of 500 users was reported on one occasion. The complex is currently in need of maintenance and improvement. The installed lift capacity appears adequate to serve anticipated demand. No new applications are anticipated in the near future for winter sports areas.

Another ski development is located at Deep Creek on BLM land near Wise River. Rainy Mountain and Deep Creek receive primarily local use. No potential sites for ski areas of National significance have been identified on the Beaverhead; however, one or two good sites are known to exist in the Big Hole Valley near Jackson.

A large recreational complex, the Big Sky Development, is developing near Bozeman in the Gallatin Valley. The complex will include a large ski area, hotels, individual summer or winter homes, and condominiums. This area is adjacent to the Spanish Peaks Primitive Area and is over the ridge from the Jack Creek drainage near Ennis. There has been a proposal for construction of a road up Jack Creek to gain access to the development from the Madison Valley. This proposal may or may not come to pass. The proposal is complicated by the fact that Jack Creek is also proposed for inclusion into the Wilderness System.

There are six public service resort-type permits on the Forest. These include a cabin-trailer park at the mouth of the West Fork of the Madison River, a marina on the Horn Creek fork of Cliff Lake, two resorts providing mainly cabin accommodations with boat docks and rentals at Wade Lake and Elk Lake, a resort providing lodge and cabin accommodations centered around a hot springs and plunge at Elkhorn Hot Springs, and a high country resort at Canyon Creek which provides cabin rentals, horse rentals, guided pack trips and outfitters-guide services. Except for the cabin-trailer park concession on the West Fork of the Madison River, all other resorts need modernization. There is a trend toward dude ranch-type resorts, either outside the National Forest Boundary or on private land within the Forest.

There are 34 recreation residence permits on the Beaverhead National Forest, of which 5 are covered by limited tenure permits. Some of the remaining permits conflict with the current needs of the Forest. No remaining lots are available for summer home tracts and there are no plans to establish new summer home tracts.

At this time, many private landowners are refusing access or crossing rights to recreationists. In many cases, they also refuse to allow hunting or fishing. These acts reduce the opportunity of hunters to harvest the desired number of game animals and result in increased hunting pressure on National Forest lands where access is available.

WILDLIFE AND FISH

The Beaverhead National Forest and the privately-owned valleys contain large numbers of big game animals and fish. The area is known nationwide for its elk and deer herds. As an indication of this, one of Dillon's sporting goods stores sells more non-resident big game hunting licenses than any other dealer in Montana.

Because of the large numbers of big game animals, hunting is a major sport in the fall. Hunting success on the Beaverhead National Forest is considered to be good.

The Beaverhead National Forest has 859 miles of fishable streams. Many other small streams support a few fish but are not considered to be fishing streams. Most of the streams contain eastern brook with some cutthroat trout at the higher elevations. Fishing activity can increase without depletion of this resource.

The Forest contains 3,700 surface acres of water in 245 mountain lakes. Of these lakes, 153 or 62% support fish. Sixty-eight lakes contain cutthroat trout, 96 contain rainbow trout, 25 contain a cross of cutthroat and rainbow trout, 25 contain brook trout, 13 contain grayling, 2 contain Loch Leven (Brown Trout), 2 contain Lake Trout (Mackinaw), 1 contains mountain whitefish, and 2 contain golden trout. There are 156 lakes in Beaverhead County, 77 in Madison County, 9 in Deer Lodge County and 3 in Silver Bow County.

Native upland birds include the Franklin, Blue and Ruffed Grouse. These birds are numerous at certain locations on the Forest but are not heavily hunted.

Wild turkeys were planted near Glen in 1968. These turkeys appear to have adjusted to the new site and are multiplying. They are often seen in the Willow and Birch Creek areas on National Forest land. No hunting has been allowed on this flock. Sage Grouse are common and hunted in the Lima and Ruby River areas. Ducks and geese are common in the valleys along the rivers but are not common on National Forest land.

The Madison Range east of Ennis contains a good herd of Rocky Mountain Big Horn Sheep. These sheep are located in very rugged terrain which makes hunter success very low. This is one of two locations in the United States that allow unlimited numbers of hunters for this big game animal.

The Forest contains four species that are considered as rare and endangered. Bald eagles are occasionally seen in the Madison River area. Grayling fish are found in only 20 lakes and 25 streams in Montana and 26 lakes elsewhere in the Continental United States. Of these lakes, 13 are on the Beaverhead Forest, primarily in the Big Hole and Centennial areas.

The Montana Fish and Game Department has two winter game ranges in the Madison Valley. The Wall Creek range is adjacent to National Forest ownership. The Bear Creek area is intermingled with Forest Service land.

Antelope are numerous in the valleys adjacent to National Forest land but do not use the Forest to any extent.

DEER LODGE FOREST

The portion of the Deer Lodge Forest in this region is located predominantly in Granite County, with a smaller segment in Powell, Deer Lodge, and Silver Bow Counties. This forest still provides a good deal of evidence of the mining activity of the past and which is still singularly important. Visible are old mine shafts, scars of hastily constructed mine roads, remnants of mining sluices and lingering evidence of the overgrazing by cattle and horses in the days of feverish exploitation of the resources. Even today a number of trails are based upon the early mining roads developed primarily for the industry. A number of ghost mining towns are in varying stages of deterioration and several organizations are making efforts to preserve them or to prevent further vandalizing and plunder of the properties.

This portion of the forest has a number of outstanding features of recreational attraction.

Georgetown Lake

Georgetown Lake is a 3,000 acre body of water formed by a privately constructed dam on Flint Creek. The reservoir provides water for mine smelter operations and for electric power as well. It is considered to be the most heavily used lake in the state and is used on a year-round basis. The lake is an outstanding producer of fish and sustains from 80,000 to 85,000 fisherman days use per year, accounting for nearly 4% of the total fishing pressure in the state. It is a shallow lake with an average depth of 11 feet, and this basically accounts for the excellent fish production. The lake is heavily stocked annually.

The lake will require increasing management to retain the primary attraction of fishing, and this means paying particular attention to prevention of pollution of the waters from both the public and private lands surrounding. As more and more people visit this lake, the sanitation problems will grow worse with a consequent effect upon the fishery potential as well as the aesthetics aspects also important to recreation.

At present, there are five recreation sites provided by the Forest Service on the lake. In addition, there are a great many summer homes and cabins on the lake shore. Over 60% of the lake shore is privately owned. Further development by the public sector will be dependent upon careful consideration of the capacity of the lake to absorb pressure. Conflicts in surface use of the lake require increasing attention.

Winter ice fishing is very popular on this and nearby Echo Lake. Snowmobilers make heavy use of the area in winter. Sanitation in winter is a problem needing attention.

Because the area is currently used at near or more than capacity, the prospect for future recreation will emphasize more management rather than development of additional facilities.

Anaconda Pintlar Wilderness

The Deer Lodge Forest contains roughly one third of the total 157,803 acres of the wilderness. Trails lead into the wilderness from all sides and the hiker is enabled to see the high peaks with their glacial cirques, mountain goats on the promontories, elk in the high meadows, and numerous alpine lakes with good fishing opportunity. There are dramatic views in many directions, and the area is also noted for unusual stands of alpine larch. The Hi-Line Trail along the top of the range may be traveled by foot or horseback. Small brooks and several waterfalls are added features. Big game hunting is permitted in season.

Copper Creek, Meadow Creek and East Fork of Rock Creek

Three mountain streams of some attraction are located in the portion of the Deer Lodge Forest adjoining the north-northwest boundary of the Anaconda Pintlar Wilderness. Copper Creek is adjoined by a primitive road for more than ten miles leading into the forest, providing access to Copper Creek Campground. A trail leads from this road to the wilderness boundary. Meadow Creek is adjoined by a primitive road leading to the wilderness boundary also. The East Fork of Rock Creek is also accessible by a forest road leading to the reservoir on that creek and which covers some 450 acres. A trail leads from this road into the wilderness boundary. Spillway Campground is located on the reservoir. Each of the creeks and the reservoir provide good fishing. No additional development is contemplated along these three streams for the foreseeable future.

Flint Creek Range

The Flint Creek Range extends in a north-south direction between the cities of Deer Lodge and Phillipsburg. It is an area of considerable elevation with more than 35 lakes of some size and numerous smaller ones. There are no developments as such, however, there are numerous trails and access is available from several primitive roads dispersing around the boundary. A developed campground is situated on the eastern boundary at a considerably lower elevation, however.

The attractions are therefore the dispersed area camping and hiking, including fishing. No developments are contemplated for this area.

Skalkaho Highway

The Skalkaho road, or highway as it is termed, extends along the west fork of Rock Creek and thence over the Sapphire Mountains into the Bitterroot forest and into the Bitterroot Valley, emerging in the vicinity of Hamilton. Only a portion of the road is surfaced. The remainder is somewhat difficult of access. The road provides a tour of dramatic scenic vistas, interesting high country areas, and a view of Skalkaho Falls. Three developed sites for camping are provided on the Deer Lodge Forest namely Crystal Creek, Flume Crossing, and American Gem. Improvement of the road will continue, making this an outstanding drive. While no new sites are likely, some enhancement of the present ones is anticipated.

Thompson Park

This park is somewhat unique in that it is one of very few areas on a national forest which is designated by Congress for a city park. This 3,500 acre tract of the Deer Lodge Forest is nine miles south of Butte and is officially designated as a park by the city. The City of Butte owns 74 acres and most of the development is located on that land.

The national forest lands do not have many large areas suitable for development for recreation. Most of the area is rocky, fairly steep and has a dense pole stand of lodgepole pine, leaving narrow creek bottoms as the main area for development. Existing roads are steep and without drainage. The area has suffered from vandalism.

Highway 10 crosses the park, providing access to the camp areas developed. While the opening of the interstate decreased this use, the provision of camping on a side road will have increasing attraction for others preferring less crowded areas. The existing areas should be enhanced and the traveling public made aware of them.

FLATHEAD NATIONAL FOREST

A small portion of the Flathead Forest is within this region, occupying the northernmost segment of Powell County. The forest is used primarily by residents of adjoining regions. While there are no developments in this segment, there are eight forest recreation sites in nearby Swan Valley, west of this subunit. There are no foreseeable developments in this area, however, it does have high recreational value due to its scenery, heavy forest cover, isolation and the presence of a number of pristine streams which are a part of the headwaters of the South Fork of the Flathead River. Access from this region is across a portion of the Lolo Forest adjoining.

LOLO NATIONAL FOREST

Two small areas of the Lolo Forest are within this region. A very small segment adjoins the Flathead Forest as referenced above. This area contains two recreation sites, a campground on Monture Creek and one Coopers Lake. These provide a base for exploration northward into the Flathead Forest as well as their innate recreational value.

A larger portion of the Lolo Forest in this region is located in the northwest corner of Granite County, lying adjacent to the Bitterroot Divide (which separates the Lolo and Bitterroot National Forests in this area). The east flanks of the Sapphire Mountains are in this portion of the forest as well.

This portion of the Lolo is noted because of Rock Creek, a highly popular fishing stream. The stream and adjoining lands are heavily used by Missoula area recreationists, and by a vast number of out of state visitors as well. There are seven developed recreation areas on Rock Creek providing for picnic and camping use. Despite heavy day use, some developed areas are used at less than capacity. The intensive use and the increasing development of private lands in the lower end of the canyon have resulted in great public concern about environmental deterioration and effect upon water quality. Water quality and quantity are recognized as key resource values of the area and a study has been undertaken to establish a base and monitor trends in quality plus influences on the resource as well. Headwaters of Rock Creek are found in the Anaconda Pintlar Wilderness

There is a bill in Congress to designate Rock Creek as a wild and scenic river.

Future development on Rock Creek is directly related to the capability of the resource to withstand such use. A regulation of usage may have to be devised in the near future.

The Madison River

The Madison River is renowned throughout the nation for its fishing, particularly fly fishing, and sustains visitation from throughout the country. The headwaters of the Madison rise in Yellowstone Park and drain much of Madison and Gallatin Counties. Rainbow and brown trout are the main species. However, the headwaters of this river contain most of the trout varieties.

There are 15 public access sites provided on the river by the Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management and the Montana Department of Fish and Game. Private development in the lands adjoining the Madison is increasing rapidly. If the high quality of water is to be maintained and the fishing opportunity continued at its present levels, the recreational use and also the land use adjoining will need careful management. A combination of effort on the part of the private and public sector both is basic to maintenance of this extremely valuable recreation resource. A distribution of fishing pressure by some means may be one of the devices necessary to management. Careful management of the developed areas, particularly if use continues to increase, is another prospect in the recreation picture.

The Clark Fork River

A portion of the Clark Fork River is found within this region, with the segment between Garrison and Nimrod of the most recreational value. The river has scenic quality, has good fishing and has potential for floating, particularly for the amateur. Several highway rest stops and an excellent private campground development which is currently under construction will provide reasonably adequate access for the present. Additional access points, as for floating, are indeterminate at this time.

The Big Hole, Beaverhead and Jefferson Rivers

The Big Hole and the Beaverhead Rivers unite near Twin Bridges to form the Jefferson River, one of three in turn which form the Missouri River. The Big Hole River is famous throughout western states for its brown trout and rainbow fishing, while its upper watershed affords grayling as well as brook trout. People travel from a number of states annually to participate in angling on this stream. The Big Hole and the Beaverhead are reputed to meet the expectations of the best of the trout fishermen, whether with spinning or with dry fly gear.

Public access sites on these rivers are rather limited and their number should be increased. Bureau of Land Management lands adjoin, but are not necessarily contiguous to, the Big Hole River in that sector where Silver Bow and Beaverhead Counties meet, and these should be investigated for access points. Where the Beaverhead Forest extends to the immediate vicinity of the Big Hole, those lands should be evaluated for some development which would increase the opportunity for fishing on this noted river.

Red Rock Lakes National Wildlife Refuge

The Red Rock Lakes National Wildlife Refuge is located east of Lima and the Lima Reservoir on the Red Rock River. A small portion of the refuge contains Beaverhead National Forest lands. The refuge was established as a sanctuary for the trumpeter swan when it was near extinction.

The area offers an outstanding opportunity to view a variety of wildlife, with huge flocks of water fowl and other birds either residing there or using it as a stopping place during migrations. There are limited facilities for the public. The interpretive exhibits and self guided tours are being developed to enhance this recreational pursuit considerably.

Lost Creek State Park

This park, 6 miles north of Anaconda, is a delightfully scenic area featuring Lost Creek Falls which flows through a 1,500 foot deep canyon capped with limestone pinnacles. The falls cascade more than 50 feet over cliffs and escarpments. The area provides picnicking and camping facilities which are in need of updating. This will be accomplished, along with the improvement of a county road, which is the only access.

State and National Monuments

Bannack State Monument, taking its name from an early Indian tribe that inhabited the area, commemorates the first territorial capital of Montana, dating back to 1862 to 1865. The old gold mining town is now on the National Register of Historic Places and is undergoing preservation work. As this work continues, this promises to become an historical attraction of considerable interest and value.

Big Hole Battlefield National Monument

The monument is administered by the National Park Service and commemorates the historic encounter between Chief Joseph of the Nez Perce and the U. S. Army in 1877. A visitors center depicts that era in the history of the relations between the Indian and the white man.

Grant - Kohrs Ranch

In August of 1972, the President signed into law a bill that created a unique type of national historic site, the Grant - Kohrs Ranch. This ranch will commemorate the significance of the cattle industry in the development of the western portion of the nation.

Planning is underway to restore the ranch and buildings to their original character of the period 1880 to 1900. Planning and development will extend over a period of perhaps five years before the facility is completed and ready for public visitation.

In addition to the attraction of the historic site itself, there will be some additional recreational opportunity available.

The following table tabulates facilities available for recreation in the municipalities of Anaconda, Butte, Deer Lodge and Virginia City.

MUNICIPAL FACILITIES

MUNICIPALITIES	1970 POPULATION	1972 PARK ACREAGE	Golf	Swimming Pool	Tennis	Multi-Purpose Courts	Baseball or Softball	Football	Children's Playgrounds	Large All Purpose Playfields	Picnic Areas	Designated Bike Trails	Indoor Recreation Centers	Facilities for the Handicapped	Special Accommodations for the Handicapped
Anaconda	9,771	N/A	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
	Facility Needs:		N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
Butte	23,368	3,650	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x			x	x
	Facility Needs:											N	N	N	N
Deer Lodge	4,306	34	x	x	x		x	x	x		x				
	Facility Needs:			N											
Virginia City	149	2				x					x		x		
	Facility Needs:								N		N				
	Facility Needs:														
	Facility Needs:														
	Facility Needs:														

Recreation and parks expenditures, which include money for maintenance operation, personnel, acquisition, and development are tabulated below:

MUNICIPAL EXPENDITURES

	F. Y. 1970	F. Y. 1971	F. Y. 1972
Anaconda	$ 29,000	$ 29,000	$ 29,000
Butte	130,900	159,900	152,000
Deer Lodge	15,412	12,407	16,207
Virginia City	0	0	0

N/A = information not available

Anaconda considers a swimming pool, baseball, softball, football fields, childrens' playgrounds and an indoor recreation center as its foremost priorities. Building a new sports complex, utilizing school land, and gaining funding assistance through the B.O.R. program have all increased recreation opportunity for local residents.

State level assistance is needed in the form of funding, to help relieve the local burden. Requests for bicycle trails have increased dramatically. The major problem for this city is the difficulty in being able to provide a variety of recreation facilities.

Butte indicates the provision of indoor facilities as its number one priority. They have used many local innovations such as leasing land from schools, and entering into interlocal agreements to increase recreation opportunity. More assistance is needed from the county government to provide park and recreation development.

The B.O.R. program should be modified to include the development of enclosed/indoor swimming pools--a necessity in this climate. Increased requests for a cycling program have been received.

The major problem in Butte is that the City of Butte Parks and Playgrounds Department serves the entire county, where no access fees are charged, yet non-city residents do not pay taxes to the city for recreation facility development.

Deer Lodge feels its number one priority is a swimming pool in which state-federal funding is required.

Virginia City considers a picnic area with restroom facilities as its highest priority. State assistance is needed in the form of funds to help maintain and develop recreation facilities. This is the major problem in Virginia City, as is the case in most small communities. Neglect of park areas result with the burden of continuing costs for maintenance.